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PRESIDENT CHIRAC

New chance to end
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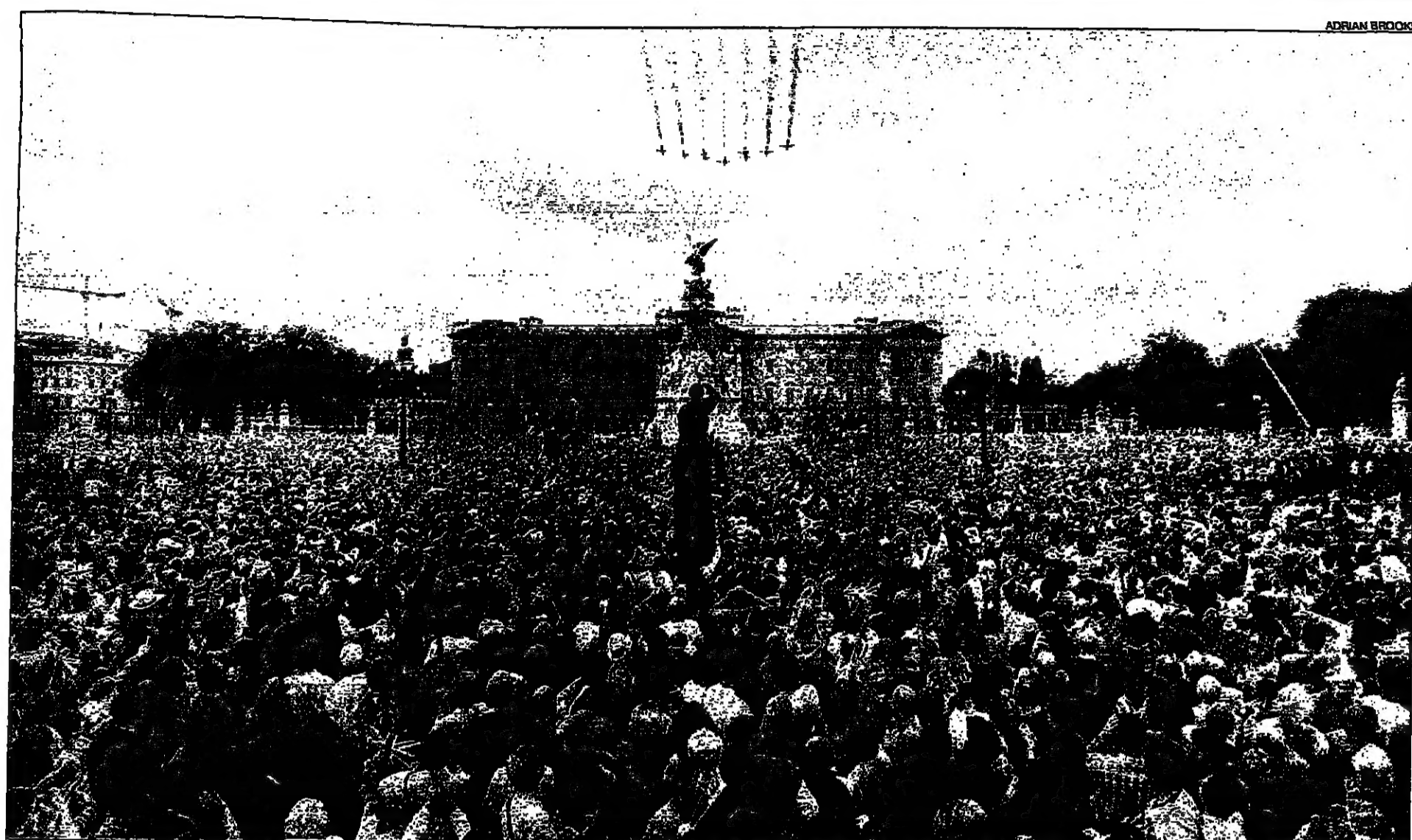
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THE TIMES



No. 65,262

TUESDAY MAY 9 1995



The Red Arrows provide a patriotic climax to yesterday's flypast over Buckingham Palace to the delight of the cheering crowd of more than 250,000 in The Mall

Queen Mother holds centre stage on VE-Day of fun

By ALAN HAMILTON AND JOHN YOUNG

HUGE crowds took to the streets of London yesterday to bring the weekend's commemorations of the end of the Second World War to a carnival climax, and to pay popular tribute to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the living symbol of a nation's fortitude in oppression.

After two days of solemn commemoration and thanksgiving, the country's mood turned to celebration, as on May 8, 1945, with massive outpouring of national pride outside Buckingham Palace, and informal street parties across the land.

The fiftieth anniversary drew to a dramatic close in Hyde Park last night with a concert attended by thousands, and the lighting of the first of a chain of beacons by the Queen after a two-minute silence for those who died in the conflict.

The evening's programme included a reading by the actor Robert Hardy of Sir Winston Churchill's address to the crowds in Whitehall in 1945. He said: "Neither the long years, nor the dangers, nor the fierce attacks of the enemy have in any way weakened the independent resolve of the British nation."

That had been amply demonstrated all weekend as more than a million people visited the celebration site in Hyde Park; yesterday it was closed several times as the 150,000 capacity was reached, while many more queued for a chance to play a small part in the commemorations.

Although heavily stage-managed, the celebrations

achieved much, not least the reuniting of hundreds of old comrades and a resurgence in the esteem of the royal family. And as a piece of theatre, the recreation of the 1945 Buckingham Palace balcony scene was the hit of the weekend, drawing a crowd of well over a quarter of a million to cheer the leading lady to the echo.

In the original production, the King, Queen, their two daughters and Winston Churchill appeared on the balcony to acknowledge the cheers and gratitude of an enormous and spontaneous gathering in VE-Day party mood. Yesterday the three surviving members of the original company drew a singing, flag-waving audience that stretched half a mile from the palace. As to who was the star, there was no doubt.

When the balcony doors opened and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother stepped into view, the crowd greeted her with a cheer loud enough to drive London's entire pigeon population aloft. It was intended that she should have the stage to herself for a few moments, but she was soon followed by the Queen and Princess Margaret.

From an elevated stage in front of the palace gates, Cliff Richard, a war baby, led the singing of *Congratulations*. The Queen Mother smiled broadly and waved, clearly relishing such a milestone on the road of a remarkable life.

Dame Vera Lynn took over the microphone for *The White Cliffs of Dover*, lustily supported by 250,000 voices. On the balcony, the royal trio



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Tory Right get the knives out for Clarke

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JAMES LANDALE

SENIOR Conservative right-wingers last night urged John Major to risk losing his Chancellor by ordering a radical shift in policy on the economy and Europe.

They said he should be prepared to accept Kenneth Clarke's resignation if that was the price of putting the Conservative Party back in touch with its natural supporters.

The demands for a swing to the Right — and the sniping at Mr Clarke — came as Tory MPs prepare to return to Westminster today after a long weekend absorbing the grim lessons of last week's local elections debacle.

Downing Street officials have fiercely rejected suggestions of a rift between Mr Major and Mr Clarke, but the Chancellor's standing has been damaged by a series of miscalculations, culminating last week in the confusion over taxation of mortgage insurance payouts. Right-wingers said he had proved the fly in the ointment at the polls.

The decision to leave interest rates unchanged has also left Mr Clarke exposed as the foreign exchange market reopens in London today. If dealers dump sterling and he is belatedly forced to raise base rates, his future will be in serious doubt, Kenneth Baker, the former party chairman,

and Sir Peter Fry, MP for Wellingborough, have already urged Mr Major to move Mr Clarke, and more Tories turned their fire on him yesterday, with one calling for Michael Portillo or Peter Lilley to take over.

Leading figures inside and outside the Government said the clear message from the council rout was that only a

MPs' pressure.....8

wholesale overhaul of policy could save the Tories from a general election wipeout. That meant swift and decisive action to cut taxes, spending and borrowing, and outright repudiation of plans for closer European integration, including a single currency.

Mr Clarke, the leading European Cabinet minister, should not be allowed a veto over the survival plan, the MPs said as they scorned claims that a failure to communicate lay behind the loss of more than 2,000 Tory council seats.

One leading right-winger said: "The Prime Minister is unwilling to take the kind of action needed to seize the

political initiative. Clarke is a straitjacket on innovative action and a lot of people think he is a liability."

"The Prime Minister has got to be prepared to risk the odd resignation by ordering radical changes on economic and European policy. If that means one or two people leaving the Cabinet in a huff, so be it. It might be the price of John Major's survival as leader."

Right-wingers complained that Mr Major was fond of saying that his instincts were with them over Europe, but that if he followed their advice he would be faced with four or five resignations. They said it was time to call the Cabinet moderates bluff.

One prominent figure said it was clear from the doormats that a lot of "bruised Tories" were waiting for the opportunity to come back to the fold. But they wanted an apology for past economic mistakes and a return to the tax-cutting agenda of the 1980s.

But there were strong doubts that Mr Major would take such a gamble and one said: "I expect us to limp on to the autumn with a lame duck leader."

Stranded climbers are rescued

Mountain rescuers winched two men to safety after they had spent 56 hours stranded on one of Scotland's most hazardous mountain ranges.

The climbers, who spent two nights trapped in freezing conditions on the Cullin Hills on Skye, were taken to Broadford Hospital in Portree, suffering from hypothermia and mild frostbite. One of them was unconscious and believed to be seriously ill. Page 6

Corporal first to win new medal

The first award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, which is second only to the Victoria Cross for courageous acts by members of the Armed Forces, has been given to a corporal who saved the lives of his patrol in Bosnia. Page 8

Spending spree

The Government is considering ditching its tough controls on local authority budgets to allow newly elected Labour councils to go on a spending spree that would be funded by council tax increases. Page 4

Peking alert

Peking has ordered a national alert before and after the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4. The move is also aimed at guarding against unrest if Deng Xiaoping dies. Page 11

Breast cancer units 'failing to save hundreds'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MORE than half of the 230 hospitals treating women with breast cancer are failing to meet minimum standards for care, according to specialists.

Inferior treatment provided by surgeons with little experience of breast cancer and inadequate back-up from specialist colleagues is contributing to hundreds of unnecessary deaths a year.

A report seen by *The Times* and drawn up by leading specialists from the British Breast Group, the British Association of Surgical Oncology and the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, says that breast cancer units must treat at least 100 new cases a year, and have a full range of specialists on site to provide for all aspects of a patient's care.

But a survey by the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund this year showed that at least 40 hospitals fall below the minimum 100 new cases, and many others do not have a full range of specialists providing multi-disciplinary care.

The report, *Definition of a Breast Cancer Unit*, was drawn up in response to Government plans for a network of specialist cancer units to be established in local hospitals. It says that many hospitals claim to have breast cancer services "but it is known that only a few have them well-organised... and the quality of each individual service is uncertain."

Susan Butler, head of public affairs at Cancer Relief Macmillan, said that 100 of the 230 hospitals providing breast cancer treatment in Britain "are fulfilling all the requirements" of a breast cancer unit. Seventy more were near to meeting the requirements, but the remaining 60 units may be closed or merged. The report says that the UK needs 170 to 200 cancer units.

Britain has the highest death rate in the world from breast cancer, which takes 16,000 lives a year. Last month the Government published plans to end the "cancer lottery" and give every patient access to the highest standards of care.

Dr Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, said guidelines on the exact number of cases required to qualify as a cancer unit would be developed. He cited research showing that survival rates for women treated in specialist units were almost 9 per cent higher after five years, and more than 7 per cent higher after ten years.

The all-party Commons Health Select Committee, which is investigating breast cancer services, pressed Dr Calman and Baroness Cumberlege, the junior health minister, to set national minimum standards at a hearing last week.

Care lottery, page 5

Carling reinstated to lead World Cup squad

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

WILL CARLING was yesterday reinstated as captain of the England rugby union team less than 72 hours after being sacked for describing the governing body's committee on television as "57 old farts".

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) cleared Carling to lead England in the World Cup, which begins in South Africa in 16 days time.

Carling repeated his apology to the RFU officials. He said: "I regret what I said and I do not blame the people who made the documentary [on television]. But I should not have made those

comments". He said that he hoped the action of Dennis Easby, the RFU president, would lead to players having "a bit more respect for him. He has avoided what could have been a bad stand-off."

Jack Rowell, the England team manager said that the incident might bring the squad closer together. "On the other hand there has been a lot of mental disruption which I would rather had not happened a fortnight before we hit the ground in South Africa."

The RFU warned, however, that Carling's reinstatement was "subject to certain conditions, which will remain confidential and a written undertaking by Carling that he will not say or imply

during this period anything which serves to denigrate or bring into disrepute the game or the RFU".

Carling, who has led England in 48 matches of which 37 have been won, met RFU officials at Twickenham knowing that all the 25 England players had backed him and asked the officers to reconsider their decision.

The RFU denied that their decision was a climb down, but the rugby world will believe that the authority's decision is a victory for the players and their desire to have a greater share in the running and the profits of the game.

David Hands, page 21
Player power, page 26



Carling: apologised for his "old farts" comment on TV

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TDN 0965

Archbishop and Cardinal join Chief Rabbi in synagogue memorial service

Prince of Wales emphasises value of remembrance

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales said yesterday that acts of remembrance for the sacrifices and horror of the Second World War were a safeguard for civilisation. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, the Prince said humanity had not conquered the dark side of the human condition.

"That is why the simple conscious act of remembering is so crucial to our continued survival as civilised human beings," he said. There was "a gossamer-thin line" between barbarity and civilised values, those for which hundreds of thousands in Britain and the Commonwealth gave their lives in the last war.

"Just as Christ paid the ultimate sacrifice for his God-given inner convictions and wished his disciples to remember him, so too did countless inmates of prisons and concentration camps, who died in captivity, or whose comrades to ensure they were remembered," he said.

Many would have put their trust in a higher and more mysterious power, glimpsing something of the divine dimension beyond "in a way unknown to the majority of my generation," he said.

The Prince of Wales is the first member of the Royal family to deliver Radio 4's morning religious feature. He wrote the three-minute piece in his garden at Highgrove, and recorded it for the *Today* programme in advance.

Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, speaking at the memorial service for the fifth anniversary of VE-Day at the Bevis Marks Synagogue in the City of London, the oldest functioning synagogue in the country, also emphasised the

moral importance of remembrance. The service, attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, was thought to be the first time that a British Cardinal, Archbishop and Chief Rabbi had been at a synagogue service together.

Dr Sacks said: "VE-Day asks us to remember the past for the sake of the future. What led to the war was not merely diplomatic failure but moral failure. What won the war was not only military courage but



Charles: radio address

moral courage. And the great questions that lie before us are still moral questions."

He said the war was "the bloodiest conflict in history" in which 20,000 people died on average every day for five-and-a-half years. "But even as we are numbed by the thought of this vast encompassing loss of life, we as Jews carry in our hearts today a special and personal burden of grief."

"For we cannot forget, nor will we ever forget, that under the smoke of battle another tragedy was taking place. By the time the war was over, two-thirds of the Jews of

Europe, one-third of the Jewish people, had been murdered, gassed, burned and turned to ashes."

He continued: "It has taken 50 years to articulate our grief. It has taken many of the survivors until now even to speak of their memories."

He said the Holocaust was more than just the Jewish tragedy. "It is the human tragedy. But humanity was not condemned to suffer history as an endless repetition. We can change the course of history because we can change ourselves. But we can change history only if we remember history. We have to remember what it was like to be a slave if we are to create a society of freedom. We have to remember the valley of the shadow of death if we are to cherish and sanctify life."

Dr Sacks said there was much work to be done, and the hatred that fuelled the Holocaust had not ended 50 years ago. "It surfaces today wherever racism, prejudice or xenophobia lay their hold on the human heart." Despite all the advances in science and technology, "the most important challenges we face are still those set out in the book of Genesis."

The Prince of Wales yesterday attended an ecumenical VE Day thanksgiving service in Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff where 15 religious denominations were represented. Pastor Herbert Volker, who is from Germany and works at Cardiff's Lutheran Church, and Rabbi Elaina Rothman were among those who attended the gathering, dedicated to the themes of liberation, reconciliation, peace and unity.

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Major pays tribute to Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

JOHN MAJOR took advantage of Berlin ceremonies marking the end of the war in Europe to make overtures to the German leadership in the Franco-German hiasus following the election of Jacques Chirac to the French presidency.

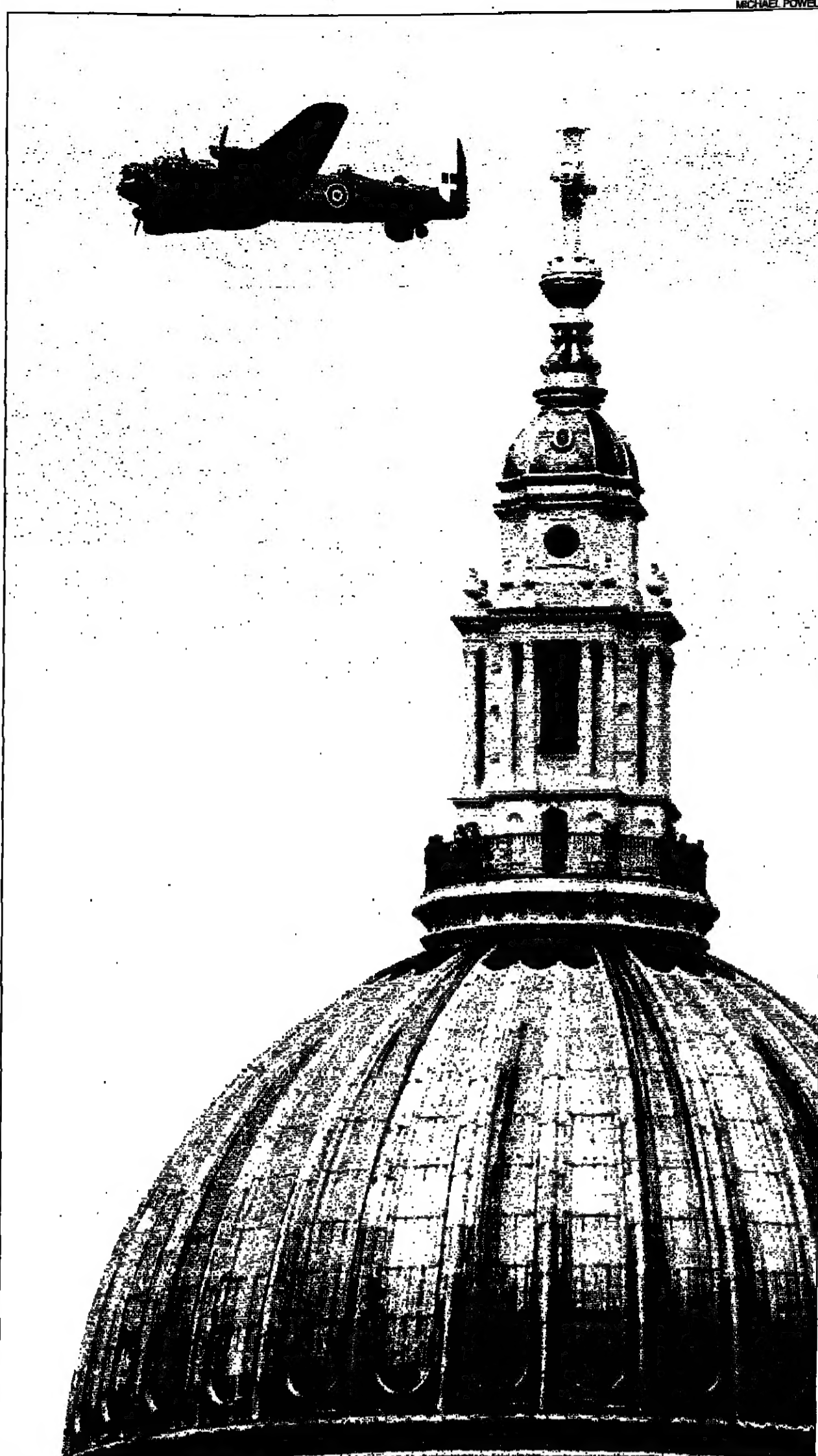
Mr Major impressed the Germans with a flattering reference to Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in the rebuilding of Europe. "Many have contributed to this re-

building: Churchill and de Gaulle, Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy, Gorbachev, Konrad Adenauer who rebuilt Germany and you, Herr Bundeskanzler, who saw it reunited in peace and freedom."

This reference and unusually warm reception on the part of the German leader may reflect a British attempt to build a closer Anglo-German friendship and exploit the inevitable uncertainties that

will now occur in the Franco-German relationship. Mr Major also earned German applause when he spoke of remembering "all sides who fell in the last war."

Russia, however, received no mention, in what was seen as a move to avoid any suggestion that the British Government tacitly supported President Boris Yeltsin's bloody military offensive in Chechnya, which has cast a shadow over the anniversary.



The Lancaster passes St Paul's Cathedral on its way to yesterday's VE-Day flypast over Buckingham Palace

Red Cross highlights refugees as innocent victims of war

ONE part of Hyde Park stood out over the weekend as a reminder that, for thousands of refugees, the price of war is still being paid. Visitors to the VE-Day celebrations donated thousands of pounds to the Red Cross after visiting the replica refugee camp, squeezed between the United Nations pavilion and Nato tent at Hyde Park.

The camp, complete with medical centre, water purification plant and food distribution tent, was an accurate microcosm of the reality facing two million Rwandan refugees in Zaire, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda itself.

More than ten thousand visitors were registered and followed the

■ As the British Red Cross celebrates 125 years of humanitarian aid, Ruth Gledhill finds how the victims of conflict still rely on the organisation

path of a refugee through food distribution, health checks and the message and tracing service, which is helping refugees to find and stay in touch with their families. The British Red Cross, which raised £12 million from its Rwandan appeal, has spent all but £2 million helping the refugees.

According to the International Red Cross, food remains a critical issue in Goma, Zaire, with rations

cut in the two large camps of Kibumba and Kahindo, and security is deteriorating. A crisis in Burundi is being monitored closely and preparations are being made in Tanzania for a possible influx of refugees from Burundi.

Geoffrey Dennis, international director of the British Red Cross, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, said: "In the camps at the moment it is pouring

down with rain. Everything is mud and squalor. It is also quite cold."

"There is a serious problem in that the refugees are not going to go back to Rwanda. They are beginning to grow vegetables and set up plots."

"We have to get the message across to the Tanzanian and Zairean governments that these people are not going back. The best thing they can do is to give them more land, so that they can start running their own lives again."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will visit Rwanda today to encourage the mission of the Anglican Church in helping with long-term reconciliation and

rebuilding. He is seeking "to demonstrate the prayerful support and compassion of the Worldwide Anglican Communion for the suffering people of Rwanda, as they try to rebuild their lives and institutions following the traumatic events of the last two years," a spokeswoman said.

The British Red Cross, helped more than 1,500 people at the Hyde Park VE-Day celebrations over the weekend.

Three hundred wheelchairs were in constant use for the elderly and disabled. One was on permanent standby for the Queen Mother but in spite of the heat she did not need it, a Red Cross spokesman said. A

fleet of 12 minibuses ran a perimeter transport service for 500 veterans and the elderly. These were part of the Red Cross medical loan and transport and escort services, which come under the charity's community programme. In London, the transport service is particularly used for escorting patients from one mainline British Rail station to another.

At Hyde Park, more than 500 people were also treated at four First Aid depots. They were mainly suffering from heat exhaustion and dehydration. In a separate venture, the Red Cross and Oxford Street traders organised a joint street party for 1,250 children.

Manchester singalong

Albert Square, the Victorian centrepiece of wartime Manchester, was the venue for a party attended by more than 10,000 people last night (Kate Alderson writes). Revelers waved flags and sang along to wartime songs as a parade of vehicles from the war circled the square. The music was led by the Police Band, which also paraded 50 years ago in the square. A fly-past of aircraft including a De Havilland Mosquito light bomber took place shortly after a mock air raid siren sounded over the city.

Bradford 12 reunite

A dozen friends captured on camera 50 years ago celebrating VE Day with a street party returned to the same road in Bradford yesterday to pose for the cameras again. The street party in Bolton Road, Undercliffe, was attended by Janet Whiteley, the only surviving parent from the faded photograph, who was also marking her 85th birthday yesterday. "In the excitement in 1945 my birthday was forgotten by everyone - even myself," she said. Her daughter, Dorothy, eventually married a German from Bremen.

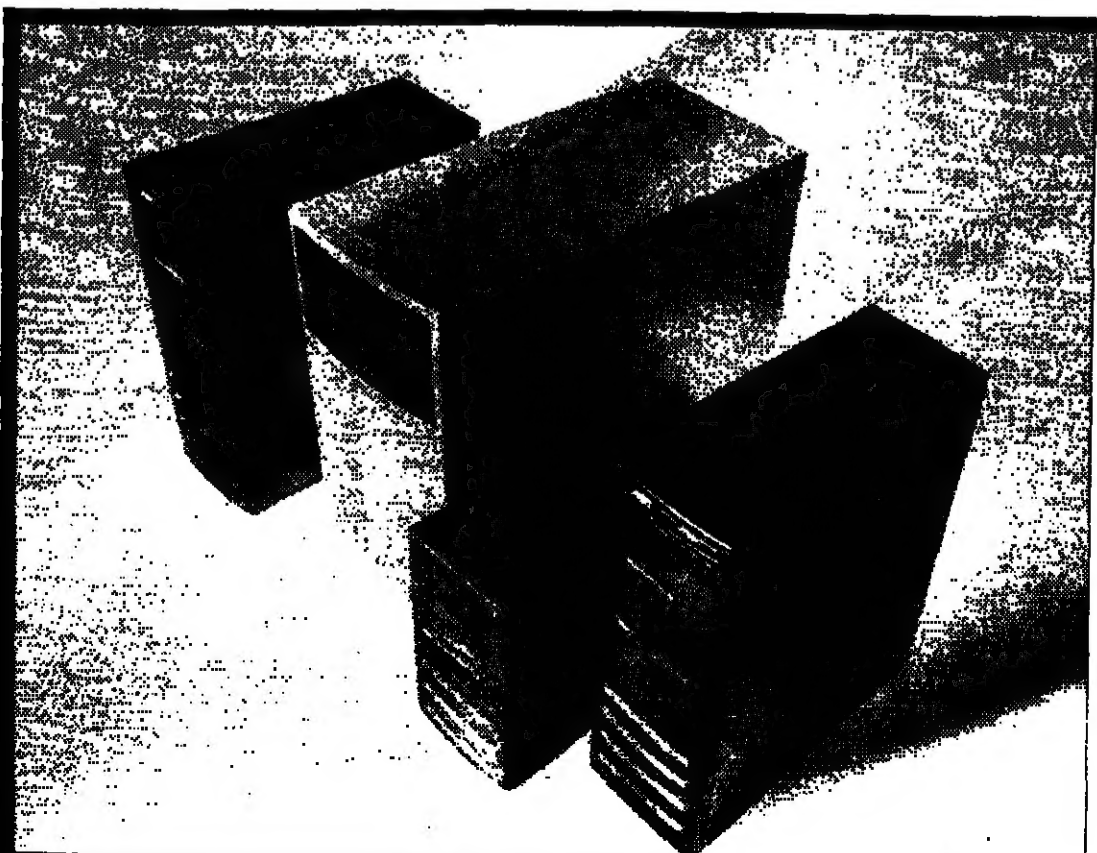
Arrows fly to Bangor

A spectacular display by the Red Arrows over Bangor, Co Down, formed the centrepiece of Northern Ireland's VE-Day celebrations yesterday. Thousands flocked to the seaside resort, which was festooned with bunting and Union flags for two huge open air parties on the docks and in the town's Castle Park. The Duke of York, who was on the final day of a three-day visit, was cheered as he toured the party in the park. He was later guest of honour at a lunch for veterans in Bangor Castle.

Scotland reflects in sombre fashion

The VE-Day commemorations in Scotland were low-key and dignified with few street parties and little flag-waving. (Gillian Bowditch writes). The Princess Royal, accompanied by husband, Commander Timothy Laurence, read the lesson from St Matthew's Gospel at a memorial service in St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr James Simpson, conducting the service, described war as "at best a tragedy, at worst an obscenity". Hundreds of veterans joined Scottish political leaders at the service in which the dead of the Second World War were remembered and prayers were said for the new Germany.



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Scotland reflects sombre fashion

VE-Day commemorations in Scotland were low-key affairs, with few flags and little flag-waving. In Bowditch, Wiltshire, the 85-year-old, accompanied by his wife, Laurence, read the names of the fallen from St Martin's Cathedral in Wiltshire. Moderator of the ceremony, the Rev Dr James, conducted the service, which was described as a 'day of prayer and reflection' for the hundreds of veterans who gathered in the church. The service was held in the morning, and the Rev Dr James said for the first time.

rows fly Bangor

acular display by the rows over Bangor, Co. Down, the centenary of the Easter Rising. The display was held in the town, and the Duke of York, who was there for the final day of the parade, was cheered by the crowd. The parade was held in the morning, and the Duke of York said for the first time.

dford reunite

friends captured 7 years ago, and they were reunited yesterday. The friends were reunited in the town, and the Duke of York, who was there for the final day of the parade, was cheered by the crowd. The parade was held in the morning, and the Duke of York said for the first time.

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Wave of nostalgia turns the clock back fifty years

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND JOHN YOUNG

IF THERE had been a roof over The Mall yesterday, the crowd of more than 250,000 stretching half a mile from Buckingham Palace would have raised it easily as they turned back the clock 50 years in a welter of nostalgia.

Many of those present had stood on the same spot on May 8, 1945, waving then as now at the Royal Family on the balcony. Penny Mewes, of Dulwich, south London, was serving with the WAAF in Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

"We heard the news of the surrender in the mess but we didn't have newspapers or radios so we didn't realise what was going on. We asked each other what we should do and eventually we got leave passes and I went home and came up here the next day with my mother and sister."

"It was a lovely day. We all adored our King and Queen and the princesses. Everyone was so enjoying it. It was such a joyous day."

For Frederick Adams, formerly of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, celebrations were mixed with tragedy. Four days after VE-Day his ammunition lorry was blown up by a mine in Germany and four of his comrades were killed. Angela Mason, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, was in her last year at school when the war ended. "I came here with my parents and brother. It was just like this but a lot noisier. The King and Queen kept coming out on to the balcony, and the crowd were shouting for them. There was tremendous jubilation. It was not so restrained as this. People were hugging and kissing each other."

Grace Kilbourne, 75, who once again strained for a view of the balcony, said: "The Queen Mother is absolutely marvellous. She is loved even more now than she was then."

Mrs Kilbourne, a widow from Stamford Hill, north London, recalled: "VE Day was just an extraordinary outpouring of relief. I don't remember how I got there to rejoice with the King and Queen. But I remember walking all the way home after I'd taken my shoes off, my feet were killing me. How can you describe what it was like? It was a hundred times better than today, and today is fantastic."

Hans Newbroch, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, who was there with his wife Greta, was serving in RAF Bomber Command at the time. "I got three days leave and came down from Huntingdon. I remember the tremendous crowds and wonderful spirit."

It was one great festival. There was a huge sense of relief.

"Afterwards I went back and resumed training because we expected to go to the Far East. Some very good friends of mine, a New Zealand air crew, died in a crash on May 10. I felt how awful for their families, that their relief that they had survived the war was shattered so quickly."

Dorothy Smith, a 76-year-old widow, was born a cockney and now lives in Sudbury, Suffolk. Yesterday she got as close as she could to the Victoria Memorial with her son Bill, 56, with whom she had been evacuated to Newton Abbot in Devon while her husband, George, served with the Royal Army Service Corps in Italy.

Mr Smith said: "I remember her saying one day, 'The war's over. Your father's coming home'. I went to the corner and waited for him but I couldn't see him. It was six months before he did come home. I wanted to be here today to remember all that."

Among the oldest people present yesterday was Leo Kempt, 86, who served in the Home Guard during the Blitz. He was working in a flour mill in the East End on VE-Day. After work he "just went out and got really plastered".

At the other end of the age



The Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother take to the balcony 50 years after appearing with King George and Princess Margaret

scale was Adam Grimes, 11, from Warwick. "I don't know a lot about the war," he said, "but I know we won, beating the Germans and the Japanese, and that Hitler shot himself. We haven't done it at school yet but we will."

The vast crowd in The Mall may have been more restrained than 50 years ago but in many ways it seemed not dissimilar. There was a good humour, a gentleness, a cheerfulness and a camaraderie that echoed a less cynical age. Dame Vera Lynn sang for the old soldiers and Cliff Richard for the war babies. Sir Harry Secombe belted out *If I Ruled the World*. "That's one for Adolf," said Harry Harding, a retired docker in West Ham Football Club regalia. "Shame he couldn't come."



Database helps 1,000 to search out old comrades

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO former comrades from 53 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery were reunited yesterday half a century after sharing guard duty at an internment camp at New Nemsdorf, North Germany.

What Bombarier James "Alf" Barber, aged 81, and Ian "Aitchie" Aitchison, 71, a driver mechanic, did not realise until they debriefed each other in Hyde Park was that they operated on each other's doorstep in Civvy Street. Mr Barber, who ran the staff club of an advertising agency until his retirement, lives off Baker Street in west London, while Mr Aitchison, a retired bus driver, drives sightseeing tours starting from the same street.

The reunion was the first face-to-face meeting between veterans who registered with British Telecom's Veteran Link database system during VE-Day celebrations. In the past three days, 3,500 veterans have logged their details in a search for old regimental friends, and more than 1,000 of those are expected to be reunited in the next few weeks.

Mr Aitchison, a Scotsman

now living in Elephant & Castle, south London, said: "It's a long time ago, but I recognised Jim all right. The reunion means an awful lot. It will be nice to rekindle the memories. For six years we were all like one big family, and then we lost touch."

Mr Barber raised a glass of claret and said: "We're going to meet up on a regular basis from now on. You can be sure of that. This debriefing could take a lifetime. We travelled thousands of miles together."

Roy Eaton, a sapper in the 1052 Port Maintenance Company of the Royal Engineers, last saw his fellow soldiers 50 years ago to the day. He left Hyde Park delighted after being told that a friend was alive in New Zealand.

Another veteran, Able Seaman Wally Spare, registered on Sunday, asking to be put in touch with anyone who served on HMS Petard. Within minutes the database came up with nine names.

Veterans wanting to trace old friends are invited to call the free BT Veteran Link number (0800-001 949) or to visit any BT shop.



James Barber and Ian Aitchison, reunited yesterday

Day of fun

Continued from page 1 joined in, without the benefit of the song sheets distributed to a crowd mostly too young to remember the original.

Suddenly, at only a few hundred feet, a Swordfish biplane came pattering down the Mall and over the palace roof, the first of a flypast of historic wartime aircraft. It was followed by the Dakota and the Catalina, the Mosquito and the Hurricane. The crowd gave particular greeting to the four-engined growl of a Lancaster bomber, one of only two still flying, but sadly, the most celebrated aircraft of all, the Spitfire, had been grounded at the last moment by engine trouble.

As the Red Arrows, trailing red, white and blue smoke, brought up the rear, the crowd was awoken from its nostalgia by a series of explosions from the palace roof, signalling the start of a fireworks display that gave a fair impression of anti-aircraft fire.

The crowd launched into *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*; the Queen Mother sang along merrily while her elder daughter peered over the balcony edge to see how her bands were performing on the palace forecourt. As they played the National Anthem, the crowd gave three spontaneous cheers: the royal party gave a final wave and went inside.

But the crowd was not satisfied. They began to sing *For He's a Jolly Good Fellow*. Dame Vera Lynn returned for *Wish Me Luck as you Wave Me Goodbye* and the balcony doors reopened to allow the royal party a brief encore, the Queen Mother singing along in a show of considerable gusto for a lady of 94. As she turned away for the last time, she was bade farewell with a frenzy of flag-waving and three more cheers.

Inside the palace railings Viscount Astor, the tourism minister, peered out at the sea of faces. "We wanted it to look full, and we have certainly achieved that," he said. "We have had the thanksgiving and the solemnity; this was the time for fun."

Veterans of Far East theatre prepare for August tribute

By A STAFF REPORTER

THOUSANDS of servicemen could not participate in the outpouring of joy on May 8, 1945. For those in the Far East and Southeast Asia the future remained uncertain.

The fiftieth anniversary of victory over Japan, VJ-Day, which occurred on August 15, 1945, will be marked on the weekend of August 19 and 20. In events around the country, thanks will be given for peace and those lost will be remembered. Tribute will be paid to all those who took part in the war - soldiers, Merchant Navy, land girls, the emergency services, the Home Guard, and air raid wardens, among others. Services and parades are being arranged and bells

will be rung throughout the land.

In London, an ecumenical service will take place outside Buckingham Palace and the Queen will take the salute after service and home-front veterans, including former prisoners of war, march down The Mall. The Sunday evening will see the Beating the Retreat and sunset ceremonies in Cardiff, Carrickfergus, Edinburgh and London.

At the time of victory in Europe, thousands of Allied service personnel were still in Japanese prison camps, treated like slaves on the most meagre rations, and working on the Thai-Burma railway. Others were still fighting in

preparation for an invasion of Japan. Even after hostilities ended, with the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for soldiers returning home, many suffering from severe malnutrition, the lengthy process of recovery was only just beginning.

Harold Payne, president of the Federation of Far East Prisoners of War, who is to lead veterans along The Mall in the VJ Day commemorations, came home in 1945 weighing just seven stone, half his normal weight after three-and-a-half years in a POW camp. Lieutenant Payne reckons that it took him ten years to regain his physical and mental health.

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Tories may relax spending curbs to discredit Labour

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is considering ditching its tough controls on local authority budgets to allow newly elected Labour councils to go on a spending spree next year.

Senior Conservative Party sources say the plan, which follows last week's electoral rout of the Tories, is to facilitate a sharp rise in expenditure by Labour authorities that could be funded only by a large increase in council tax.

The idea is that that would give voters a foretaste of what would happen if they opted to elect a Labour government.

Removing the cap on spending would amount to a big policy U-turn but, as a *Times* survey of defeated Tory councillors discovered last week, there is strong feeling at grassroots level that it proved electorally damaging.

The cap was introduced to curb high spending of left-wing councils and thus reduce local taxes. The theory was

that householders in Labour areas would vote Tory in gratitude to the Government for keeping their tax bill down. Conservative-controlled councils were expected to keep their spending down by good management and thus retain support.

However in the past few years all but a handful of authorities, whatever their political colour, have been spending right up to their limit and have been forced to make big cuts in staff and services. This year's budget settlement, the toughest yet, is expected to cost 100,000 jobs.

Voters have blamed the Government, not their local authority, for cuts in education and social security budgets. Tory councillors in areas like Shropshire and Oxfordshire voted to support budgets that broke the cap in an effort to show voters that they were fighting for their interests.

They were unable to counter

the view that it was the Government and not the local authority that was to blame for the cuts. The election "meltdown" duly came and defeated councillors are universally bitter that government policy made it impossible for them to stand on their local record.

The Labour Party has already announced that it would remove the cap as part of its policy of increasing local democracy if it won the general election. Aware of the danger that this could give free rein to big-spending councils, Tony Blair has said greater powers for the Audit Commission would be needed to ensure that budgets were responsible.

These controls would be short-circuited if the Government decided to remove the cap this year, giving Labour councils the temptation of spending as much as they want in the run-up to the general election.

Unionists threaten to oppose hospital shake-up

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THERE was mounting pressure on Virginia Bottomley last night after the Ulster Unionists indicated that they would side with Labour and rebel Tories to oppose her plans for hospital closures in London.

The tough line taken by the Unionists — a protest against the Government's plans for a constitutional settlement in Northern Ireland — means a knife-edge vote in the Commons tomorrow night over the Health Secretary's plans for a shake-up of health care in the capital. The Government has a paper majority of 11 but, assuming the smaller parties support Labour, it would take only six Tories to revolt for the Government's closure package to collapse.

Mrs Bottomley is expected to offer minor concessions to the Tory rebels, led by Sir John Gorst, MP for Hendon

North, but they indicated that they would settle only for a total climbdown.

After the hammering the Government suffered in last week's council elections, defeat over the London hospitals, a policy that has been in the pipeline for 24 years, would be another blow to John Major's authority.

Sir John said yesterday: "We are faced with having to try to defeat the Government on Wednesday. Mrs Bottomley has been handling this as

if she were not a politician but a civil servant or an academic. It is a most impractical way to go about things. To be kind, her handling has been inept. To be brutal, it has been a shambles."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, Hugh Dykes, Jim Marshall, Nicholas Winterton, Peter Brooke and Roger Sims are among the other Tories known to have reservations about the closure plans.

Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary,

stepped up the pressure by saying that Mrs Bottomley's scheme was "profoundly wrong and damaging" and appealing to Tory MPs to defend the interests of their constituents. The Ulster Unionists are to meet tomorrow to decide how to vote.

But yesterday David Trimble, Ulster Unionist MP for Upper Bann, voiced sympathy with the rebel Tories, saying that the issue had been brought home to him by the announcement that Bam-

bridge Hospital in his constituency was to close. "It is a long way from London to Bambridge but it gives me some sympathy with the people in London."

Unionist sources said that they expected the meeting to come out against the closures given the party's "general dissatisfaction" with the Government's framework document on the future of Ulster. However, they conceded that all nine Unionists might not be present for the vote.



The proposed closure of several London hospitals has sparked angry demonstrations by nursing staff

MPs put pressure on Major to woo alienated voters

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR will come under pressure from MPs when they return to Westminster today to return to core Tory values to revive the party's prospects after last week's devastating defeat in the council elections.

Many Tories will also demand a large-scale Cabinet reshuffle. Few MPs accept that poor communication was the sole reason for the loss of more than 2,000 council seats. It is argued that Mr Major's plans for meetings with Tory activists will not be enough.

Many support the call by Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, for an end to policies such as high taxes which have alienated traditional Tory voters. MPs also want greater support for homeowners and stronger law and order, areas that many former Tory voters feel the party has neglected.

Some MPs said the party should reinvent itself as a "new Conservative" party, shedding the disarray of recent years. "We have got to take a lesson from Labour," one said.

Peter Luff, Tory MP for Worcester, said that traditional Tory supporters were disillusioned but not hostile and would respond positively to

Mr Major's meetings across the country. "They want to be given a reason to believe in us again," Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe and another Euro-enthusiast, said. Tory divisions, especially over Europe, had been "purely destructive".

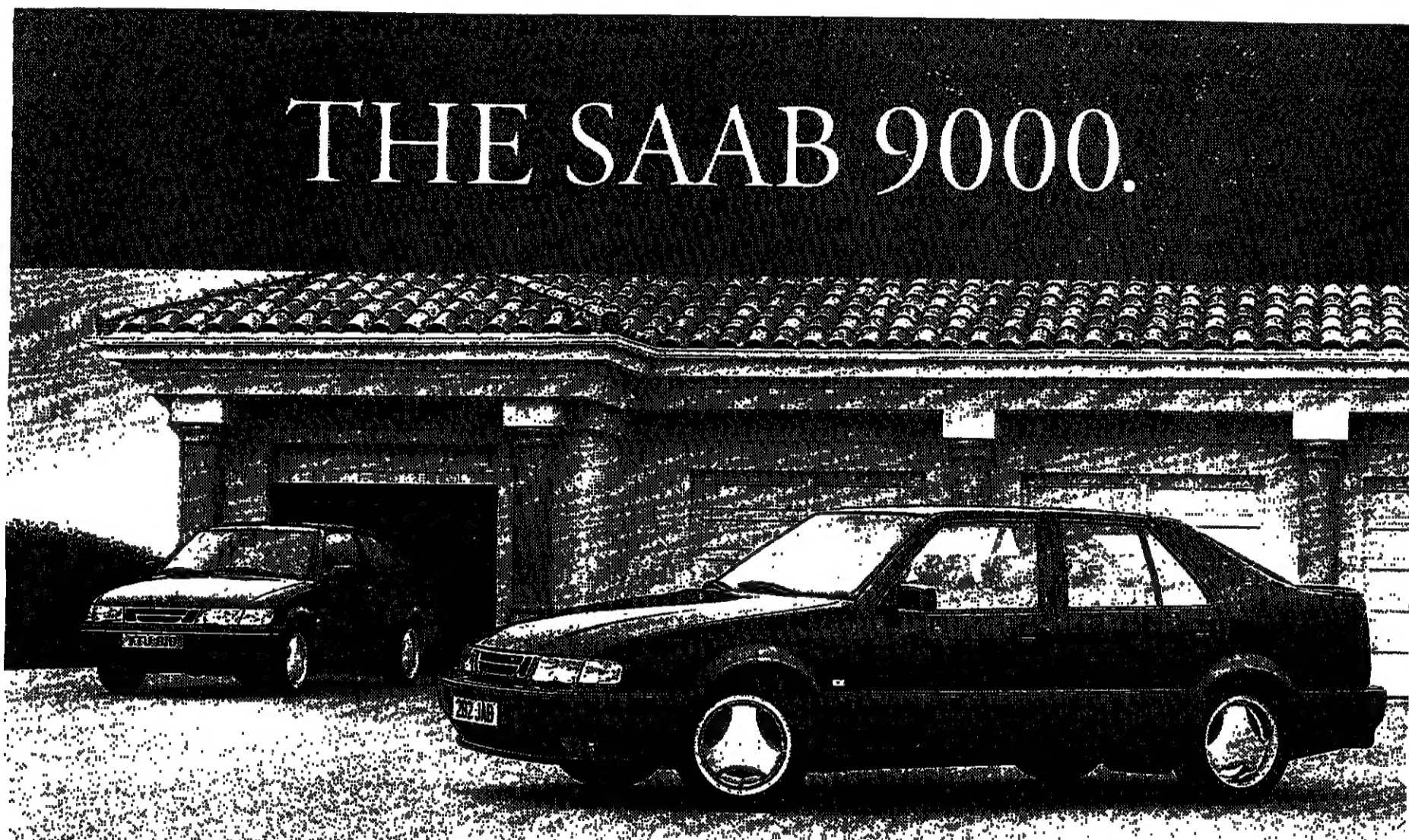
One senior backbencher accepted the pessimistic week-end admission by Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, that the Tories could lose power next time. The backbencher said: "I don't think we can win the next election."

"The battle now is to stop us reaching a 'Canadian' situation," he added, referring to the election that reduced Canada's previously ruling Conservatives to two MPs. "We need to concentrate on winning at least 200 seats to form a solid opposition."

One MP said: "What the traditional Tory supporter wants is an economy that seems to be competently run and a Conservative government that doesn't raise taxes they don't like an incompetent Government and a shilly-shallying leadership."

While few MPs call for Mr Major to resign, many want changes in the Cabinet. "They are quite appalling," one said.

Major meets 1922, page 1



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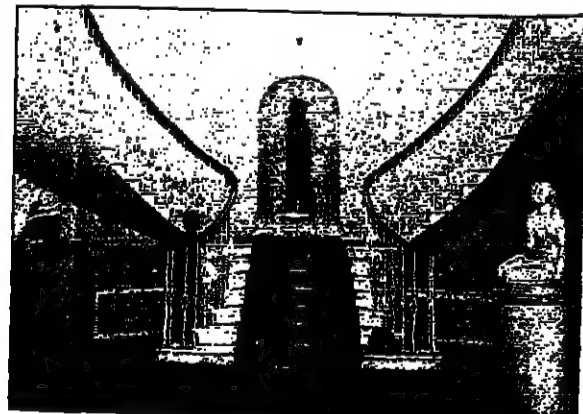
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THE TIMES Your passport to Britain's treasures



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Production of the passport at participating sites entitles the holder to a range of concessions, including two tickets for the price of one at most properties and free entry to over 400 English Heritage properties on the weekend of June 3/4. With the passport you will receive a pocket guide to participating Historic Houses Association and English Heritage properties.

You could, for example, visit Fasque, pictured above, the massive late Georgian home in Laurencekirk, Scotland, of William Gladstone, four times Prime Minister.

Full details of the offer appeared in *The Times* yesterday. Further tokens will be printed this week.



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BY STAFF REPORTER

SECURITY in the heart of London West End has been stepped up by more than a dozen units. The move follows the discovery of a car bomb in the Strand. The bomb was found in a car parked in a car park near the Strand. The car was found with a large bomb attached to it. The bomb was found in a car parked in a car park near the Strand. The car was found with a large bomb attached to it.

محذرا من الاصل

Council gives panic alarms to witnesses of crime on estates

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL tenants who witness crime on their estates are to be given panic alarms linked to local police stations in an effort to persuade them to give evidence in court.

They will also be offered help from a specially appointed council officer in a drive to end the "culture of fear" on estates in Salford, Greater Manchester. The council hopes to change the culture among some tenants who believe that

reporting crime and hooliganism is "grassing", rather than acting as a responsible citizen.

As part of a £500,000 initiative, Salford City Council has also attempted to shame problem tenants. It recently published pictures of six families evicted from some of the council's 34,000 properties.

The panic alarm scheme is the latest in a number of initiatives by local authorities to curb the activities of a small minority of council tenants who make life unbearable for other residents. Wit-

nesses would be provided with the alarms, which they could carry with them, to alert the police if they were afraid or threatened.

The Labour-controlled authority acted after victims of crime refused to give evidence, despite knowing the identity of those responsible, for fear of reprisals. A council spokesman said: "Petty villains often spread rumours to create a culture of fear deliberately to intimidate communities. They tell residents their phone calls to the police can be intercepted and this is a wicked lie."

He said the authority's scheme was intended to help people who had witnessed less serious crime such as breaking into cars and smashing windows.

A witness liaison officer will offer support and legal advice to potential witnesses. Those who are still frightened will be offered transfers to other estates in the city.

Under the scheme, funded by the Safer Cities project, the local council has provided a secure room at the city's magistrates' court to try to stop vulnerable witnesses being intimid-

ated by alleged offenders, their families and friends.

The spokesman added that most people needed reassurance that they would be protected if they gave evidence against unruly neighbours. "The vast majority of tenants are decent and law abiding but we have a minority who can make life a misery for everyone else."

Private security patrols on five local authority estates in north London are to be ended after a report found that in only one area had things improved since the

guards started work. Islington council has decided to end the 12-month scheme after complaints by the local police at the ineffectiveness of the guards and their failure to report incidents and assist officers. The report says that on one occasion guards were found fighting among themselves.

Alan Clinton, Labour leader of the council, said: "It worked only in the short term but it does not provide a long-term solution. It is much better to work with the police on an overall strategy for the borough."

Inspectors threaten to close school

A school has been given 40 days to improve its standards or ultimately face closure after a damning inspectors' report. An Ofsted inspection of Handsworth Wood Boys' School in Birmingham found poor management, pupil behaviour and standards of education.

The report was also concerned that of the 442 pupils, 113 — mostly from ethnic communities — had been excluded from the school in the past 12 months.

Testplan, page 33

Airgun arrests

Two boys aged 13 and 14 are to appear in court after a police driver was shot in the neck with an airgun in Kilburn, north London. PC David Cook, 32, was "comfortable" in hospital after an operation to remove a pellet.

Custody death

The Police Complaints Authority is conducting an inquiry into the death of a 37-year-old man arrested in Clapham, south London, last Wednesday. He died after being transferred to hospital suffering from alcohol or drugs.

Victim named

The woman whose body was found in woods on Sunday has been identified as Joanna Trengg, 20, from Gorseinon, West Glamorgan. Four men and a woman are being questioned by police.

Police crash

A policewoman is critically ill after her patrol car crashed into a wall during a 70mph chase in Cudworth, South Yorkshire. WPC Sandra Edwards suffered serious head injuries. PC Ian Dodd, a passenger, broke his shoulder.

Student hanged

A philosophy student at Durham University killed himself by hanging out with the girlfriend, Jess Pickett, 21, of Lifford, West Sussex. The student was found hanging in a tree in a field near his home.

Swastika anger

Firemen were called to take down a swastika flag flying from a public house roof in Cinderford, Gloucestershire, after complaints swamped the local police switchboard. John Kitch, the landlord, said the flag was a "sick joke".

Family rescued

A couple and their three daughters, spotted in the water by a woman dining at an hotel, were rescued by an inshore lifeboat after their dinghy overturned in a sudden squall in the River Forth near Rosyth, Fife.

Lizards return

Sand lizards bred in captivity are to be released in secret locations along the North Wales coast. Conservationists hope that the native reptiles will repopulate headland and dunes after an absence of nearly half a century.

Climbers saved after 56 hours on mountain

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

MOUNTAIN rescuers who battled for two days to save two climbers stranded on one of Scotland's most hazardous mountain ranges were celebrating last night after the two men were winched to safety.

The climbers, who spent two nights trapped in freezing conditions in the Cullin Hills on Skye, were taken to Broadford Hospital, Portree, suffering from hypothermia and mild frostbite. One of them, Thomas Taylor, 21, from Inverness, was unconscious and believed to be seriously ill.

The rescue took place on the day that an all-party committee of MPs met in Aviemore to discuss the rising costs of mountain rescue. This year 25 climbers have died on Scotland's hills and dozens more have been rescued.

Mr Taylor and Ian Meek, 30, from Cleveland, were

ers failed to answer their calls yesterday afternoon and there were fears he was losing consciousness. A break in the weather meant the two men could be winched off the mountain by helicopter.

Colin Simpson, a member of the Inverness Mountaineering Club who travelled to the Cullin Hills with the party for the weekend trip, said yesterday: "It seems the pair did everything right and that may have saved their lives. Experience counts in these situations and the fact they are safe speaks volumes for their actions in a dangerous situation."

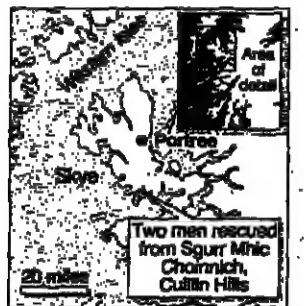
The meeting of MPs, including Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, and Sir Russell Johnston, of the Liberal Democrats, were due to fly over the Cairngorms by helicopter but the trip was cancelled when the helicopter was diverted to the Skye rescue.

The MPs, who heard that the cost of yesterday's rescue was estimated at around £20,000, said after their meeting that they were not in favour of compulsory insurance for climbers to meet the cost of rescues.

Andrew Anderson, director of Glenmore Lodge in Aviemore which was hosting yesterday's meeting, said mountaineering was enjoying a huge resurgence of interest and that the deaths represented only 0.1 per cent of those who took part in the sport.

"This is not just a Scottish problem, although the deaths here obviously impact on the Scottish mountain rescue services," he said. "The majority of accidents, around 50 per cent to 60 per cent, involve people from south of the border so it is important that initiatives taken to educate people are on a national level."

A diver pulled from the sea off the Dorset coast yesterday morning died at Weymouth and District Hospital. The unnamed woman was among a group of 14 who were diving on the wreck of the M2 experimental submarine that sank off Southbourne, Dorset, in the 1920s. The crew of the boat carrying the divers alerted coastguards after the woman became trapped in an eddy, 50ft down near the wreck.



climbing Sgurr Mhic Choinnich, 3,076ft, in the Cullin Hills. The pair, both of the Inverness Mountaineering Club, had set out on Saturday morning but became stuck when their abseiling ropes snagged as they descended "Rotten Gully" known for its unstable rockfaces and easily dislodged large boulders.

The rescuers became concerned when one of the climb-



A 1732 engraving of Wigmore Castle, which had been made indefensible in the previous century, shows vegetation taking over the walls

English Heritage steps in to save crumbling castle

By MARCUS BINNEY

ONE OF the largest castles in the Welsh marches is to be taken over by English Heritage to save it from collapse. Wigmore Castle, a picturesque, ivy-clad ruin, was once one of Herefordshire's most important strongholds, built on the typical motte-and-bailey plan shown in every children's history book.

Jocelyn Stevens, English Heritage chairman, said yesterday: "We have now received formal permission from Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, to take the ruins into guardianship. This is the most important kind of work English Heritage can do." The organisation expects to spend up to £500,000 on the castle in the next few years.

Wigmore Castle was built in 1067 by William Fitz Osborn, who also constructed nearby Chepstow Castle. Fitz Osborn was described by a medieval chronicler as "the first and greatest oppressor



Gaunt, present owner

of the English people" and was left in charge of the country when William the Conqueror returned to Normandy in 1067.

By the time of the Domesday Book it was already a property of the Mortimers, among the greatest of the Marcher lords, with whom it remained for four centuries.

The present, once-palatial castle was built by Roger de Mortimer, who ruled Edward II's

Queen Isabella and was later hanged and drawn for Edward's murder. By the 1530s, the castle was in decay and after being occupied by Royalists in the Civil War was dismantled by Cromwell to make it indefensible.

The present owner, John Gaunt, said: "The castle ruins are rich in rare ferns and wallflowers which have established themselves thanks to a canopy of natural woodland. But in recent years Dutch elm disease has depleted the trees and left the ruins more exposed."

John Thompson, an ecologist advising English Heritage, said: "Providing repointing is not too extensive, the monument should continue to support a wide range of plant life."

Richard Haslam, a leading expert on the architecture of Wales and the Borders, said: "Half the castles in Britain are in this area. The people were as belligerent as the Italians, running up castles on every hilltop."



Jim Tomkin, a local expert, examines the castle walls

Girl assaulted after man abducts friends

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who lured two young girls into his car at a beauty spot and assaulted one of them was being hunted by police yesterday. The man dumped the two friends eight miles from where he abducted them. The girls were flying a kite on the Westbury White Horse in Wiltshire when the man approached them. He chatted to them and bought them ice creams, then offered to drive them home. Instead, he took them to Penn Tree Hill, outside Great Cheverell on the edge of Salisbury Plain, where he indecently assaulted one of

them before driving off. The youngsters were found by a family out walking and riding on the hill, and their families and the police were called.

Detective Inspector Paul Howlett of Trowbridge police, said: "Neither of the girls was physically injured although they were obviously very upset."

"We are treating this very seriously and we are asking for anyone who might have seen the two girls to come forward. It is a very popular beauty spot. Both of the girls have blonde hair, one of them very blonde collar-length hair and the other one with hair

down to the middle of her back, and they were flying a bright purple kite, so hopefully someone will have noticed them and will have seen them talking to this man." The incident happened on Sunday afternoon.

Mr Howlett added: "The vehicle we are looking for is a red, square-shaped hatchback, possibly a Nissan." After a separate incident on Sunday, Surrey Police are hunting a couple who tried to snatch a seven-year-old girl as she walked home from fishing. She escaped by climbing out through the window of the couple's car as it slowed down.

She had been fishing with her brother, aged 12, at a river lock at Sutton Green. They had a disagreement and he stormed off. The girl then spotted a man climbing over the gate of a nursery, loading plants into his car.

He shouted "come here" in what she later described as an evil voice. She took a step back but he grabbed her by the wrist, snatched her fishing tackle and bundled her into the back seat. He then climbed into the front passenger seat beside the woman driver and they sped off.

The girl later told police that she started to cry and was told

to shut up. She then wound down the window and threw out her fishing tackle before leaping out as the car slowed down to take a corner. The man leant out of his window and threatened her before the G-registered, maroon Rover drove off.

The man is described as aged 30-35, 5ft 10in tall, fat, clean shaven with a big nose and a faint scar on his cheek. He wore black shoes with orange and black laces. The woman is thought to be aged between 30 and 45. She had grey hair, clipped back, and may have had a cut on her neck.

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مكتبة القرآن الكريم

Inspectors threaten to close school

It has been given 40 days to improve its standards or face closure after a damning inspection report. North Wood Boys' in Birmingham found management, pupil behaviour and standards of education were poor. The report was also damning of the 442 pupils, mostly from ethnic minorities — had been excluded from the school in the months.

Teenage arrests

Two aged 13 and 14 are to appear in court after a police raid on a house in Kilburn, London. PC David was "comfortable" in after an operation to arrest a suspect.

Body death

Police Complaints Authority conducting an inquiry into the death of a 32-year-old man, last Wednesday, died after being taken to hospital suffering from alcohol or drugs.

Man named

A man whose body was found on the Gower in Swansea has been named as Joanne Trevelyan, from Gorseinon, Swansea. Four men and a woman are being charged by police.

Car crash

A woman is critically ill after a patrol car crashed into a car during a traffic stop in Cudworth, South Yorkshire. WPC Sandra Edgerley suffered serious head injuries. PC Ian Hoad, 34, broke his leg.

Man hanged

A physics student at Dursley College killed himself by hanging out with his friend, Jens Pierre, 21, of 1, West Sussex. The student was hanging in a bath and shared student.

Police anger

Police were called to take a woman from a public house in 1, Gloucestershire. The woman was taken to hospital and the police were called to the "sick joke".

Man rescued

A man was spotted in a boat in the sea near a beach. He was rescued by a lifeguard and taken to hospital.

Man return

A man has been released from hospital after a long stay. He was taken to hospital after a fall from a height.

Man 90%

A man has been released from hospital after a long stay. He was taken to hospital after a fall from a height.

"People don't realise what we've got down here. Hendrix sessions, Beatles sessions, Joy Division..... it's like the family silver."

Phil Lawton, Archivist.



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Patrol leader who risked his life and UN commander in Bosnia are honoured in military awards

Soldier who saved platoon is first to win new medal

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE first award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, which is second only to the Victoria Cross for courageous acts by members of the armed forces, has been given to a corporal who saved the lives of his patrol after they were ambushed by Serbs near the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Corporal Wayne Mills, 31, of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was section commander of a foot patrol that came under heavy Serb small-arms fire last year. The patrol had to withdraw and Corporal Mills risked his life delaying the Serbs with covering fire.

The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, which can be awarded

to all ranks, was announced by the Government in October 1993. Corporal Mills's medal is among more than 160 awards for gallant and distinguished service published today in the *London Gazette*.

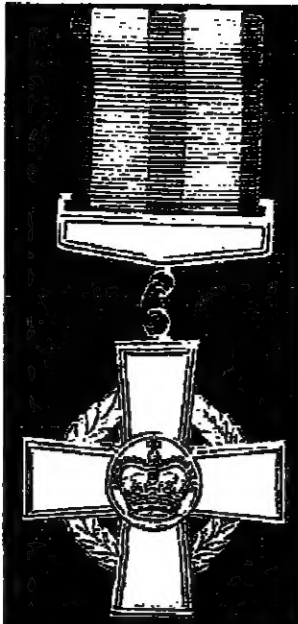
They also include the Distinguished Service Order for Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose "for his inspirational leadership and personal courage" as commander of the United Nations force in Bosnia.

A DSO is awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel David Santalucia who was Corporal Mills's commanding officer in Bosnia. He arranged for the withdrawal of Serb and Muslim forces from fighting in Gorazde just before crucial

talks in Geneva on the future of the Muslim enclave. His citation reads: "He was always first on the scene of an incident to intervene and personally influence the situation regardless of the danger."

The conditions for awarding the DSO were changed in 1993. It is now given to those who have shown exceptional leadership, organisational powers and practical example, together with personal bravery during operations.

Corporal Mills's courage was acknowledged for an incident on April 29 last year. The Serbs had just halted their offensive on Gorazde after Nato airstrikes. However, there was still frequent fighting between Serbs and Mus-



The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross has been awarded to Corporal Wayne Mills, who acted as a one-man rearguard against advancing Serbs



lims and there was hostility towards the UN forces in the area, most of whom were British.

Corporal Mills who lives with his wife, Tracy, in Sheffield, was with his patrol near the village of Vranjovik, southeast of Gorazde, when they were fired on by advancing Serbs from less than 100 yards. He and his men took

cover and returned fire. Two Serbs were killed, one by Corporal Mills.

As the British withdrew, they also came under fire from the right flank and Serb soldiers began pursuing the patrol in large numbers through woods. Acting as a rearguard, he protected his troops. The citation says: "His deliberate and accurate fire

delayed the Serbs but the speed of their advance meant that he was in real danger of being cut off from his colleagues."

After about 600 yards, the patrol came into a large clearing and Corporal Mills, realising that the Serbs would catch them in open ground, ordered his men to take up positions across the area. He

then set up a "one-man snap ambush and waited for the Serbs". As they came through the trees firing, Corporal Mills killed the leading Serb with a burst of automatic fire and the rest fled.

Corporal Mills said he was proud of his award: "As a corporal you sometimes get called upon to take difficult decisions in dangerous situa-

tions. That's where your training comes in."

Eight army officers who were among 25 counter-terrorist experts killed in the RAF Chinook helicopter crash at the Mull of Kintyre last June are posthumously awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service.

Full list, page 18

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Owners and pets prepare to flee gas bomb threat

By MICHAEL EVANS AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

RESIDENTS have been told to prepare themselves and their pets for evacuation from a village close to a former army depot where soldiers are to search for buried First World War shells and bombs containing phosgene and mustard gas.

Hundreds of unexploded shells and bombs are believed to be scattered around the army camp at Bramley in Hampshire, a former central ammunition depot. Members of 33 Engineer Regiment Royal Engineers are preparing to clear the area in an operation code-named Cornelius.

People living within 550 yards of the training camp have been asked to fill in a questionnaire, giving details of the number of residents and pets that will have to be evacuated in the event of an emergency. The questionnaire leaves only one line for a response to the question: "What pets will you be taking with you?"

John Hucker, 38, and Yvonne Rigby, 36, who live in a 16th-century farmhouse behind the camp, have two rabbits, five guinea pigs, three ducks and five moorhens to consider. "We'll have to leave the birds in the pond for the soldiers to feed but we'll bring the rest of our pets in the car with a change of clothes," Mr Hucker said.

Peter Brace, 17, will be keeping his guitar by the door ready for a quick getaway. "I'll have to have something to stop me getting bored if I'm away from home," he said.

Peter's mother, Sandra, is hoping the family's 13-year-old cat Stripey is indoors when the alarm sounds. "Unless Stripey is around there's

no way I can find her," Mrs Brace said.

According to village folklore, an officer with too many First World War weapons on his hands decided to bury them throughout the camp. Nobody knows if he made a map of the dumps but if he did, it has long been lost.

Villagers recall an earlier evacuation in 1987 when workmen installing a water-pipe unearthed the chemical remains, forcing the closure of the A33. Although 440 shells were found, the Army knew there were many others.

An army spokesman said there were no records of where the chemical munitions were dumped. "We want to make more use of the Bramley training area, so we've got to check to see where the remaining chemical weapons are," he said.

Residents were first warned some weeks ago that a second attempt was to be made to clear the area. All residents living close to the camp have been invited to an open day on May 19 so that the Army can explain what is planned in the operation.



Hucker: menagerie will be loaded into car

Race to privatise nuclear industry

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Government will announce plans to privatise the nuclear industry this week, hoping to complete the sale before the next general election.

The industry must be sold off before November next year if there is to be a chance of using the hoped-for £3.5 billion proceeds to fund pre-election tax cuts.

The Government has decided to merge Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear so that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate can complete the relicensing arrangements this year. The inspectorate believes it can finish its work in 14 months.

However, the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities (Cola) said yesterday that the Government was wildly optimistic in hoping to raise £3.5 billion. "At best it will have to accept a dramatically reduced sale price, at worst it will have to abandon the attempted sale altogether," the consortium of 25 councils said.

The Government had to withdraw its original plans to privatise nuclear power with the rest of the electricity industry in the late 1980s. Investors were not prepared to buy shares in a company that would face the huge costs of decommissioning ageing

Magnox power stations. The Magnox stations are now excluded from the privatisation plans and Cola says that will leave the Government with a bill of up to £8 billion to make them safe. That state subsidy would swallow up self-off profits and risk a legal battle with the European Commission.

Environmental groups intend asking the European Commission to investigate whether the sale can be reconciled with EU rules on state aid and competition policy. The legal arguments could drag on beyond an election, jeopardising any sale offer.

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Chastened Germany vows deeper commitment to Europe

Leaders are booed after VE parade in Paris

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS, ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THOUSANDS of Parisians, outraged at being kept away from a VE-Day parade, jeered and booed as startled world leaders on the Champs-Élysées were driven away from a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe to an official lunch yesterday.

Bystanders shouted "Salauds" ("Bastards") amid whistles and hooting when the foreign dignitaries, including close to 50 heads of state, sped down the avenue after a modest military parade restricted to the immediate area around the monument.

It was an uncomfortable continuation of victory celebrations which began in London on Sunday, and which took world leaders to Paris yesterday and on to Berlin last night before concluding in Moscow today.

About 5,000 policemen kept the public 500 yards away from the ceremonies for security reasons and, according to some, for fear of right-wing demonstrations against the outgoing President, François Mitterrand. The move came as a nasty surprise for the crowds which had packed both sides of the avenue for more than a mile expecting the parade would head their way after circling the Arc de Triomphe.

Although the parade was broadcast on giant television screens, the crowds reacted angrily when they realised they had waited in vain. It was the hapless passing foreign dignitaries who suffered the consequences.

In a poignant symbol of the democracy restored by victory over the Nazis, President Mitterrand marked the French stage of the celebrations sitting beside the man elected on Sunday to succeed him, Jacques Chirac. As they watched a ceremony of typical Gallic splendour in central Paris, the two men were joined

by the heads of state, prime ministers, foreign ministers and ambassadors of 79 other nations, including the Duke of Edinburgh and John Major.

Pale and clearly suffering from the cancer against which he has fought for three years, President Mitterrand nevertheless carried out what is probably his last official function in France. After completing a lengthy review of the country's Republican Guard, he led his guests to watch him light the flame of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe.

As they stood for a minute's silence, the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, could be seen just behind the French President, his prominent presence underlining France's desire for reconciliation with the country that is now perceived as its firmest ally. Alongside the flag of the Second World War victors were those of the vanquished nations, the symbolism only tempered by a surprising error of protocol — the Russian flag was upside down. After last year's lavish



Guards march past the presidential delegation as wreaths were laid on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow yesterday at the start of two days of events to mark Russia's role in the Allied victory

and emotional celebrations to mark the anniversary of the D-Day landings and of the subsequent liberation of Paris, the French have displayed a limited interest in VE-Day. This year's events have failed to capture the public's imagination or to prompt much media coverage. Inevitably, they have been overshadowed by the presidential election.

□ Berlin: Sharp differences between East and West over the future shape of Europe emerged as leaders marked the end of the war in a Berlin ceremony of music and speeches.

The meeting, held in a neo-classical theatre a few hundred yards from the site of Hitler's bunker, was also the scene of an emotional letter-taking from President Mitterrand who made his last speech in western Europe, a passionate, largely unscripted appeal for the European idea. Mr Major, meanwhile, stressed

that the European future had to be based on the principle of individual responsibility. "Freedom of choice, equality before the law, open minds and an open and just society — these are the heart of our European traditions."

President Herzog, rather than Chancellor Kohl spoke for Germany and fended off criticism that the Government had been insensitive to Holocaust victims when it underlined the fate of Germans at the hands of the Russians and Allied bombers. The fact that Germans died, stressed the President, was a direct consequence of Germany having started the war. "Germany unleashed the most terrible war that the world had ever seen and it experienced the most terrible of defeats."

The German head of state stressed that Germany's collective sense of shame should be best expressed in a deeper commitment to Europe, which had become an island of democratic values. "The island must become larger," he said in a clear reference to enlarging the European Union eastwards. "It is for us to fight and work for this goal. Nobody need feel threatened by this."

Vladimir Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister,

made quite plain that his country did feel threatened by an eastward shift. "I am convinced that nobody needs new barriers, under whatever pretext and wherever they are erected." Diplomats said this was a reference to NATO's wish to include Poland, Hungary, the Czech and Slovak republics in its ranks — one of the key demands to be put forward by President Clinton when he visits Moscow today. □ Moscow: Half a century after he saved the Soviet Union from Nazi conquest and changed the course of the Second World War, one of Russia's greatest military commanders yesterday finally received his rightful place in history.

Marshal Georgi Zhukov, who commanded nearly every decisive battle of the Red Army's war against Hitler, was honoured belatedly by President Yeltsin, who unveiled a 40-ft bronze statue of the soldier in the heart of Moscow. "Russia owes a debt to my father and now this debt is being repaid," said Margarita Zhukova, the marshal's daughter, who along with the Russian and foreign dignitaries, laid carnations at the foot of the statue.

Franco-German ties, page 16



A Russian woman weeps for the fallen at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Russia lost more than 20 million soldiers and civilians in the Second World War

Bruised Yeltsin treads well-worn Brezhnev route

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

WHEN President Clinton meets President Yeltsin in Moscow today, he could be forgiven for thinking he has stepped back 15 years into Soviet history. An increasing number of Russians are comparing their President to the late Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, as much for his personal appearance — not that he does appear much any more — as for his political style.

The setting for the summit will also be Brezhnevite. The huge, disproportionate ugly monuments erected to celebrate the 50th anniversary of victory are virtually identical to those set up in Brezhnev's time as the Soviet regime tried to cover its own increasing nakedness with the glories of the Great Patriotic War.

Mr Yeltsin himself certainly bears a closer resemblance to Brezhnev than he does to his own frank, energetic, populist self of ten or five years ago. Increasingly, he lives hidden behind the walls of the Kremlin and a variety of official villas. In his public appearances, he has a tendency to alarm his staff by swinging between woodenness and excessive expansiveness. He is surrounded by an increasingly small band of personal advisers, including General Georgi Rogozin, the deputy security chief whom the newspaper *Moscow News* has dubbed "Merlin" and "a modern-day Rasputin". The paper accuses the general of spying on the rest of the presidential administration, preparing horoscopes for Mr Yeltsin and other leaders, and practising black magic. Also in the news recently has been Djuna, the President's "psychic masseuse", who also served Brezhnev.

But apart from what still appears to be a lingering commitment to legality and democracy on the part of Mr Yeltsin, there are also immense differences between his position and that of Mr Brezhnev. The Soviet leader was not committed to holding free elections, nor did he have to put up with the often

savage attacks of independent newspapers and television stations.

Parliamentary elections are due this December, and presidential polls six months later. The signs are that the Yeltsin administration will allow the parliamentary elections to go ahead on schedule and, on the basis of the results, will decide whether to hold the presidential ones.

With his own popularity at barely 6 per cent, Mr Yeltsin's own re-election ought to be an impossibility. As one Western diplomat said: "How could Yeltsin possibly campaign publicly for the presidency when he so rarely even appears in public any more?" The gut feelings of the Russian voters may not be the key factor in these elections. More

important may be the question of whether Mr Yeltsin and the Russian Government can rally the support of enough of the nation's regional administrative and managerial élite, the so-called "parties of power".

If the parliamentary elections do result in heavy defeat for the Government, then the gloomy consensus is that Mr Yeltsin will postpone the presidential elections. Given public apathy, few think that mass protests are on the cards, so that Mr Yeltsin would not have to take the risky step of calling on the unreliable security forces.

However, like Mr Brezhnev, Mr Yeltsin does not look in the best of physical shape, and a transition to an appointed successor might not be an easy one.

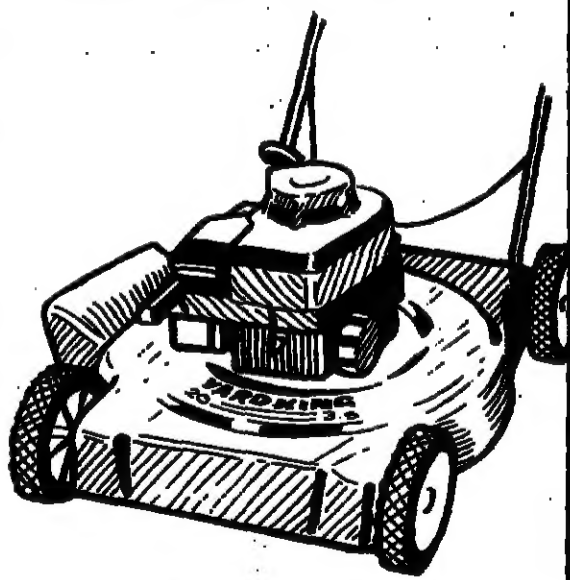
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China on alert as divided leaders anticipate unrest

FROM JONATHAN MURPHY
IN HONG KONG

PEKING has ordered a national alert before and after the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4. The move is also aimed at guarding against unrest if Deng Xiaoping, the seriously ailing senior Chinese leader, were to die.

Two apparently high-level documents indicate the leadership is prepared for the worst: rural and urban unrest, minority peoples' revolts, and a breakdown of transport, communications and power.

The leaked documents reflect a split in China's supreme leadership. On one side are President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Premier, allied at least temporarily in their determination to keep their positions. On the other are two members of the Politburo Standing Committee, Qiao Guohua, the security supremo who also chairs the increasingly restive National People's Congress, and Tian Jiyun, the Vice-Premier, who in a recent speech to the assembly urged a democratic selection process for national leaders, including the premiership.

Both factions fear disorder and national collapse, but while the Jiang-Li group emphasises loyalty and discipline, those associated with the Qiao-Tian camp appear to favour a measure of political relaxation. Either faction could have leaked the documents. One is a Politburo circular, recently obtained in Peking and dated from just before the purge of corrupt officials, which in recent weeks has shaken the capital.

The critical period for the anticipated unrest, the circular emphasises, will extend from the Tiananmen anniversary until after the October UN Women's Conference in Peking. The presence of thousands of women from abroad, many of them militant upholders of minority and sexual rights, has already caused the regime to move part of the meeting to a remote suburb.

The circular demands that the security agencies maintain 24-hour fax networks, and that

With Deng Xiaoping ailing and the approaching anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, Peking's rival factions are united in their fear of public disorder

all departments should be on constant alert to repair electricity, water, and sewage breakdowns. "Unstable factors" are even greater than last year, the circular says. This fits in with recent warnings that unemployed workers in state enterprises, underpaid farmers, and city residents being forcibly moved during urban development are sources of unrest, as are the army of unemployed, now numbering more than 100 million, and the deepening grain shortages as farmers abandon production in favour of factory work.

Der Spiegel, the German magazine, published yesterday what purports to be a confidential security report to 200 top leaders, giving a warning that after the death of

The alleged document reported that a "dangerous" social grouping was forming around badly educated minority groups, and that "nationalist and far Left groups" were also intent on "restoring the superiority of the socialist system". Other groups, said the alleged report, advocated more regional power, a genuine parliamentary structure, and a weaker Communist Party. The Government would need to act resolutely against these threats, the report said, but its strength was being sapped by official corruption.

Even if this document proves to be spurious, such dangers have been repeatedly mentioned in the official press and speeches by senior leaders. Earlier this year, Mr Tian advocated a measure of democracy, while President Jiang and Mr Li have both noted that official corruption could bring down the party. None of these reports explicitly mentions factional struggles for the post-Deng leadership, but constant calls from those loyal to President Jiang for obedience to "the core leader" and discipline, especially in the forces, reflect this fear.

Lottery illness: Mental illness is rising in the booming southern Chinese province of Hainan, with asylums admitting patients unhinged by lottery losses, bad stock investments and business flops, an official newspaper said yesterday.

Recent years have seen an increase of mental patients in Hainan in connection with money-making activities, including some engaged in stock speculation, others in business and the majority, some 90 per cent, buyers of lottery tickets, the Beijing Youth Daily said. Psychiatric experts attributed the rise in mental illness to the enormous social and economic changes in the island province. (Reuters)



Li Peng, Vice-Premier, against official corruption

Mr Deng, 90, and the handful of other ancient revolutionaries, "severe crises are inevitable. There will be a revolt of those desperate groups which have not gained any social advantages from reform." Here again was a mention of more than 100 million unemployed, who are railing against what some posters call "the new aristocratic class".



Filipino voters in Quezon City use chairs as polling booths in yesterday's elections. Imelda Marcos, below, who has campaigned for a seat in the House of Representatives, casts her ballot at her hometown of Tolosa

21 killed in 'peaceful' Philippines elections

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN MANILA

TWENTY-ONE people, including four candidates, were killed yesterday during key congressional and local elections in the Philippines. The polls, which were also marred by vote-buying, are seen as a referendum on the first three years of President Ramos' generally reformist rule. Most of those killed were victims of random shootings and grenade attacks.

Three people died in a mortar attack at Maganoy, in southern Mindanao island, which was believed to have been carried out by Muslim extremists. However, Bernard Pardo, the chairman of the Election Commission, announced last night that the vote had been "generally peaceful" and concluded three months of campaigning in which 38 people had been killed.

Mr Pardo estimated that 80 per cent of the 36 million Filipinos eligible to vote had gone to the polls to fill half the seats in the 24-member Senate, all 204 seats in the House of Representatives and thousands of local jobs.

Foreign diplomats said last night that Mr Ramos should win the majority in Congress, which he said he

needed to complete his plan of making the Philippines, long considered the "sick man of Asia", a developing economy by 2000.

The Election Commission had placed six provinces under its direct control, and thousands of troops were deployed there yesterday and in other areas of "intense political rivalry". In Zamboanga City, in Mindanao, police were on "double red alert" after allegedly uncovering a plot by a newly-formed terrorist group to bomb targets in the city, assassinate government officials and disrupt the voting.

In Manila, 500 pesos (£10) in counterfeit notes was being paid for people to vote for specific candidates or to stay at home.

Personalities rather than issues dominated politics here, however, and most Filipinos vote for names they recognise. This might boost the chances of Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady, who was standing for a seat in the House and her son, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, who was running for the Senate. Unofficial results are due in the next few days.



Pressure to halt child sex trade

A call for legislation to prosecute "sex tourists" in their home countries and a ban on child prostitution emerged from a United Nations conference on crime that ended in Cairo yesterday (Stewart Tendler writes). Delegates were told that there are an estimated one million child prostitutes worldwide, most of them in the Far East where they fall prey to European and American tourists.

Urgent action was demanded to combat child trafficking and a trade in child organs, which has been documented in Nepal. Geert Cappelaere, Professor of Criminology at Ghent University, said many societies were still blind to the suffering of children: "Crime against children is a universal problem, but there is a tendency in developed countries to pretend it's only a problem of poorer countries."

Leakey starts Kenyan party

Nairobi: Richard Leakey, the Kenyan wildlife expert, has announced that he is to help to form an opposition political party (Sam Kiley writes).

Dr Leakey, who for many years had close links with the ruling Kenya African National Union, is to join leading human rights lawyers and several MPs in setting up a new party. He resigned as director of the Kenya Wildlife Services in 1993, complaining about excessive government interference in a £187 million wildlife management programme supported by the World Bank.

Israel releases Palestinians

Jerusalem: Israel began releasing 238 Palestinian prisoners as a goodwill gesture to boost the peace deal with the PLO on the eve of tomorrow's Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha. (Christopher Walker writes). All those being freed have agreed to renounce terrorism. The move was dismissed by PLO leaders who said that, under the accord, a further 1,700 prisoners should already have been set free.

President accused of self-serving

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE Republicans, embarking on their most daring political challenge to balance the American budget, yesterday rebuked President Clinton for avoiding tough decisions in his scramble for the White House in 1996.

Republicans in Congress, attempting to pass the largest deficit reduction package in history, amounting to \$1,200 billion (£755 billion) over the next seven years, are taking their biggest political risk since winning an overwhelming mandate last November.

Their plans to balance the budget, which were drafted in the Senate yesterday and will be worked on in the House tomorrow, are facing fierce White House criticism. The proposal for a \$280 billion reduction in spending on Medicare, the health insurance programme for the elderly, has come under fire. Democrats say the Republicans are slashing welfare to pay for tax cuts of \$700 billion.

Republican leaders yesterday accused Mr Clinton of sacrificing important decisions for personal political gain. Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, said Mr Clinton had deliberately avoided the contentious issue of Medicare.

Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House, said: "It's been very disappointing to watch the President stay irrelevant on this. But he apparently is absolutely determined to run — to be a candidate and never actually serve in the office between elections."

Peacekeepers seek UN response to Serb assault

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

A DAY after a Serb mortar salvo killed ten people and wounded dozens more in Sarajevo, peacekeepers yesterday condemned the "heartless evil" unleashed by rebel gunners and asked the United Nations in New York to consider military and diplomatic responses.

A senior UN official called Sunday's shelling "the most outrageous violation of a 'safe area' and 'total exclusion zone' since the marketplace massacre in Sarajevo in February 1994."

That incident, in which 68 residents were killed, provoked such international indignation that Nato threatened to respond with air strikes against any further shelling of the besieged capital. The integrity of the ultimatum, however, has been undermined in recent months by the deployment of mortars and artillery pieces within the 12.5-mile exclusion zone and gradually more brazen shelling of the city.

"Once again, the world's attention has been drawn to an act of barbarous violence in this tragic city," the official Colum Murphy, said yesterday. He said such acts challenged the principles of the UN. "Do we cherish these principles, or can we accept the kind of unprovoked violence that Sarajevo experienced once again?"

Another UN official said that Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, commander of peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, had asked for direction on how to respond to the incident as well as to a worrying disregard for the "safe area"

and heavy weapons exclusion zone. The official said the UN in New York would consult major Western powers on the options put forward by the British commander.

Rebel Serbs have moved an estimated 20-30 mortars and cannons into the hills around Sarajevo. On Sunday, it appeared that dozens of mortar bombs and artillery shells fell in and around the city, though the UN did not have a precise count.

"Sarajevo is once again in mourning as it listens through the night to the sounds of renewed shelling and mindless hatred," Mr Murphy told reporters. He said the 15-minute barrage was "completely unprovoked".

Sunday's assault further damaged the already shaken confidence in Nato and the UN among residents stunned by gory television pictures reminiscent of the days before



Smith: fears retaliation against air strikes

Nato's ultimatum. That declaration was taken as a threat to Serb gunners and a promise of security to the 300,000 residents who endured the siege and bombardment. Those people now feel betrayed as they sense a recurrence of the nightmare they thought over.

Though Sarajevo is still a long way from the hundreds and thousands of shells that fell daily for the first two years of the siege, the year's respite has made attacks like Sunday's seem more potent.

Peacekeepers believe the large calibre mortar fire on Sunday came from a Serb position south of the city. In recent months, several other mortar attacks have come from the area.

Twice in the 14-month heavy weapons ban around Sarajevo Nato bombers have been called in to destroy antiquated weapons. In neither case was the raid called over a shelling attack.

General Smith is reluctant to call upon Nato air power — particularly as Western nations try to distance themselves from the conflict — because of retaliation from separatists. He favours "localised" responses, namely actions that lightly-armed peacekeepers are ill-equipped to carry out.

In another development, seven people were killed and seven wounded by shelling in the northern Bosnian city of Tuzla yesterday, hospital sources in the government-held region said. Local sources said the shelling came from Serb lines to the east of the city. Tuzla is a UN-declared "safe area".

US picks official poet

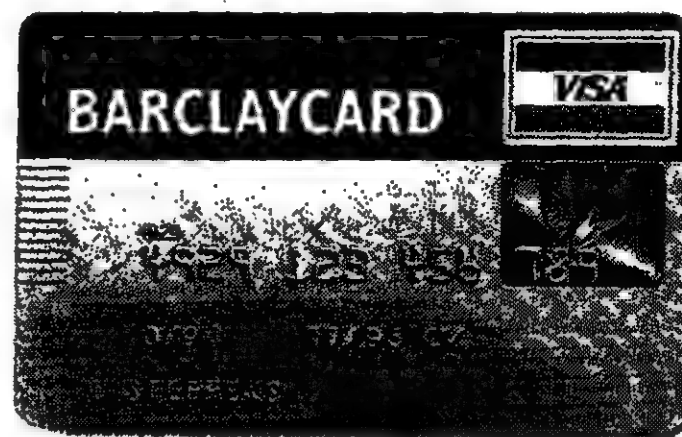
FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

ROBERT HASS has been chosen as the next poet laureate of the United States, with the challenging task of awakening a public steeped in popular culture to the more arcane joys of verse.

Hass, 54, a professor of literature at the University of California at Berkeley, is the

author of three poetry collections. He succeeds Rita Dove, who stands down this month after two one-year terms in the \$35,000 (£21,875) post.

Unlike Ted Hughes, his British counterpart, Hass will not be required to write poems for ceremonial occasions but will act as the principal spokesman for American poetry and organise literary events.



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■ VISUAL ART 1

Seen the one about the American footballer and the men in kilts? A real puzzler opens the new Tate space



■ VISUAL ART 2

A hundred of his wartime drawings show Felix Topolski to be master of the deft observation

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE

A celebrated Paris murder of 1847 is revisited in Shaun McKenna's fine new drama, *Ruling Passions*



■ TOMORROW

Dianne Wiest on how she achieved her Oscar-winning performance in *Allen's Bullets over Broadway*

Games reveal a new winner

The smart white room where Matthew Barney's *OTTOshaft* is installed, as the first show in a welcome new Tate Gallery space devoted to Art Now, is utterly unlike the work's original setting. At Millbank, everything is carefully regulated, and the exhibition is preceded by a printed introduction on the wall. But at Kassel, where I first encountered *OTTOshaft* in the Documenta survey three years ago, it occupied a frankly sinister location.

There, Barney's exhibit inhabited a dismal underground car park. Beneath the curving entry and exit ramps, I felt threatened by all the shadowy, concrete emptiness. And Barney's installation did nothing to alleviate the menace. Odd, unclassifiable yet seemingly functional objects lay on the floor, as if abandoned after some macabre ritual. High on the wall, video images of figures suspended in a lift-shaft, chasing each other, or climbing up to a perilous glass roof, reinforced the unease.

Now that *OTTOshaft* has been transplanted to the Tate's sanitised space, much of the threat is removed. In the brightly lit Art Now room, the introductory panel explains that the work is named after Jim Ono, a celebrated American football player of the 1970s. The frenetic activities recorded on video, relayed here by three monitors in the centre of the installation, all take as their springboard Ono's body-building exercises and the manoeuvres of football itself.

But if visitors imagine that Barney uses Ono's prowess in a documentary way, they could not be more wrong. The Tate show is still bewildering and bizarre. Three orange containers, open at one end, lie on the floor as you enter. They look discarded, possibly at the end of a highly charged perfor-

GALLERIES:

Richard Cork is intrigued by the work of the young American artist Matthew Barney

mance, and a black uniform with well-polished buckles has been pushed under an appliance near by. Our eyes travel up to the monitors in search of an explanation. But Barney's multi-layered work does not yield instant meanings. He presents us instead with obsessive video sequences, half humorous and half grueling, where a cast of unlikely figures are embroiled in often manic pursuits.

However baffling they may appear, the videos are hypnotic. The first monitor concentrates on Barney himself, naked apart from a swimmer's cap and harness. He embodies one facet of Ono's character, and swings his body up and down a lift-shaft. At times, the effect is exhilarating. This well-muscled figure seems to delight in his ability to scale vertiginous heights.

At other moments, though, he is trapped within a claustrophobic ordeal. Crashing against the sides of the narrow shaft, his limbs become bruised and start to bleed.

So Barney is fascinated by the punishing, almost masochistic side of sporting exercise. Even as he admires Ono's determination, he is aware of the inherent absurdity. Hence the weird, dream-like mood of the second video, where a bearded figure involved in elaborate training procedures is clothed in the "00" num-

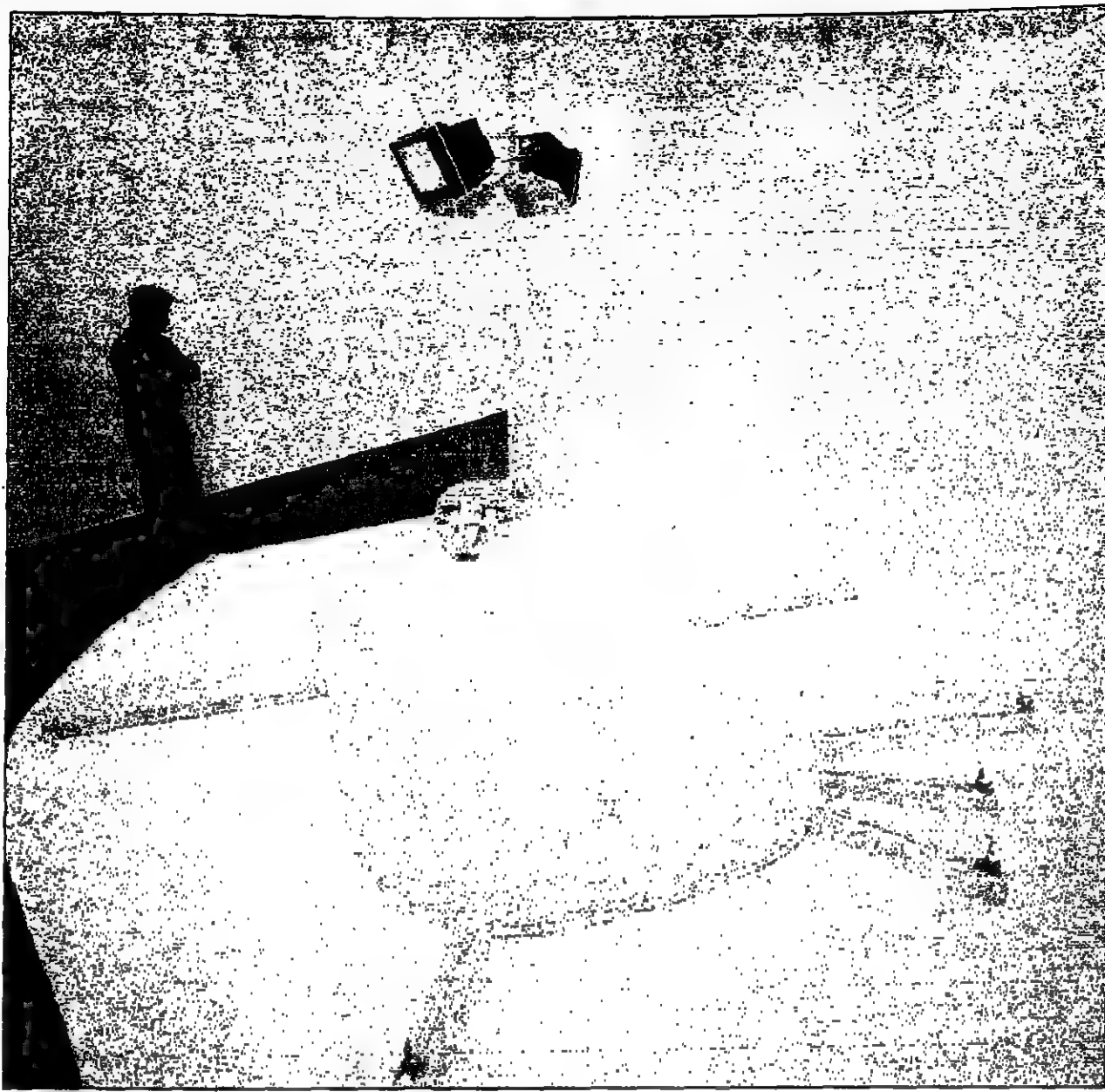
bered shirt which Ono himself once wore.

Cylindrical forms reminiscent of bagpipes project from his mouth, and suddenly the screen is alive with figures arrayed in the kilts of the Black Watch. At one point, they plunge their heads into containers identical with those laid out on the gallery floor. But they soon re-emerge, covered in white Vaseline. Why on earth should these archetypically Scottish performers be involved with American football? Barney offers no clue.

The final video returns, time and again, to images of pipes inserted in orifices. Barney is just as concerned with the inner functioning of the sportsman as with his outer physique. And perhaps he seeks to draw a parallel, above all, between the athlete's and the artist's urges to reshape the body according to their own desires. Hence the unsettling vein of fantasy in *OTTOshaft*, where sport becomes the starting-point for a nightmarish investigation of the human figure, pushed to its limits.

The same driving purpose, at once aggressive and preposterous, powers its way through Barney's new film *Cremaster 4*. Presented by Artangel all this week at the Metro in Rupert Street, this 42-minute barnstormer focuses on four TT bikers roaring round the Isle of Man in customised sidecars. Brandishing considerable cinematic virtuosity, Barney presents the bikers as anonymous, helmeted gladiators. They seem utterly in thrall to speed, and thrust their way through the narrow, undulating Manx countryside with single-minded virility.

But they are no more fanatical than the tap-dancing satyr who, in the film's opening sequence, dances gleefully on a forlorn Victorian pier. Three smirking "faeries", even more



"Art Now": Matthew Barney's *OTTOshaft* installation inaugurates the Tate's new space for contemporary work

derpented than the Black Watch trio in *OTTOshaft*, spur on the satyr and insert balls in his pockets. They are as organic as the white biological forms which gradually ooze out of slits in the bikers' uniforms. Once again, Barney is equally interested in notions of an internal journey through the body. Viewed in this light, the arresting aerial shots make the tiny bikers look like corpuscles circulating through the island's veins.

Barney springs his greatest surprise when, quite suddenly, he forces the satyr to undertake a labyrinthine expe-

dition into the island's bowels. After his dancing feet wear a hole in the pier's floor, the satyr plummets into the water. Instead of drowning, he makes his unspoolable way across the sea-bed towards the land-mass. Then, inch by painful inch, he burrows through the island's body.

By constantly cutting between his efforts and the biker's relentless speeding, Barney builds up the idea of a race between state-of-the-art machines and the god-like satyr. He probably derives from the Phrynosomeres, a hairy satyr in Marx mytholo-

gy who once inhabited the island with other supernatural beings. But he has to undergo an exacting rite of passage below the ground, and there is no guarantee that he will be the first to arrive at the goal.

Any attempt to explain the knotty symbolism of *Cremaster 4* is bound to make this impossible complex. Against all the odds, though, the film is vivid, entertaining and immediate. Barney's virtuosic direction ensures that we are caught up in the driving dynamism, and made conscious at every stage of the

tension between streamlined, mechanical modernity and primordial, legendary strangeness.

That is what matters, not the outcome of a race which remains unresolved even at the end. Wilfully obscure and eccentric he may be, but the originality and panache of Barney's Blake-like passion to energy "Eternal Delight" cannot be doubted.

● *OTTOshaft* is at the Tate (0171-887 8000) until June 18; *Cremaster 4* is at The Metro, Rupert St. W1 (0171-734 1506) until May 14, Tuesday 11pm and Thursday-Sunday matinees at 3pm.

Guilty but nutty

Ruling Passions
Royal, Northampton

IN AUGUST 1847 the Duc de Praslin entered his wife's bedroom and hacked her to death. Or so the Paris mob suspected: it rioted when the sleazy government of Louis-Philippe failed to arrest him. Henriette Deluzy, governess to the duke's children, confessed to the murder, but certain newspapers had already hinted that she was his mistress. In his first report *The Times*'s Paris correspondent wrote: "Several rumours are afloat, to which I shall not give publicity." He made up for this over the next month, sending daily accounts of the case as witnesses came forward with lurid details.

Shaun McKenna frames his version of these events within scenes at the office of the Chancellor of France, the man conducting the hearing and a personal friend of the duke. One purpose of this approach is to introduce someone able to provide social and political context, but we are given far too little of this, and almost nothing of the critical reactions of the man in the rue. Sander Eiles, the urbane Chancellor, is often shown teasing his daffy secretary (Giles Taylor) but the play does not need the modest humour of these exchanges and would have benefited from arguments that alerted us to the world outside.

On the other hand, McKenna's flashback scenes are very much to the point, especially where he imagines material merely hinted at in reports of the case. Henriette is thrilled by the handsome duke, who seems to be the stable partner of the marriage. The duchess keeps to her wing of the house, complaining of headaches, but abruptly we learn that she has more than migraine to complain about. When a man stands behind his wife and murmurs "Such long, soft hair", the prudent woman will keep a paper-knife handy. Luxury and authority go to the governess's head, and McKenna elegantly shows the unexpected effect of this on the duchess, and the dismay of the duke. Michael Napier Brown's direction brings finely balanced performances from Lynette Edwards, moving from propriety to pride, Christina Greatrex recovering her pride, and Simon Dutton consumed by it. For these flashbacks the prison walls of Ray Lett's set draw apart and a sitting room, a box at the Opera and a Corsican landscape glide forward. And finally a bedroom, where the paper-knife has its moment of gory glory.

JOHN RUSSELL
TAYLOR

JEREMY KINGSTON

Potent portraits and the art of war

Topolski's wartime images show him to be one of the greatest visual journalists of the century, says John Russell Taylor

There may be some room for argument about where, if anywhere, Felix Topolski should stand in the hierarchy of modern painters. But who would deny that he was one of the greatest visual journalists of the 20th century? The VE-Day show *One Hundred Wartime Drawings* at David Messum shows him in his element. A sparkling and spontaneous line (allegedly he looked al-

ways at the object, never at the paper, while making his lightning records), an easy grasp of dramatic chiaroscuro, a cunning eye for eccentricity: all these are ready at Topolski's command. The lighter he seems to be, the more seriously one has to take him.

In wartime Topolski's art refused precise categorisation more than ever. He was a cartoonist, a caricaturist and a political satirist, but he was



Topolski's *Bank Holiday on Hampstead Heath* (1939)

also a painter, a watercolourist and a muralist. In these brilliant and varied works, one never knows quite when one function is going to shade into another. A flighty sketch like *Royal Academy Viewing in Wartime* is on one level an encounter between a young woman in a fancy hat and a gallant gent in a bowler. But the war is present: she carries a gas mask, he has a warden's helmet under his arm, and both art and banter are represented in the background.

Elsewhere, dealing with the Axis leaders, Topolski eschews his usual nervous, wandering line for a harsh precision

worthy of George Grosz. But one keeps coming back to the sheer repugnance: the glimpse of sailors' quarters on a destroyer; shelterers sleeping on the floor in Woolworth's during a night raid; an evening's entertainment snatched by uniformed soldiers in the bar of the Beaver Club.

No doubt it is pictorial journalism in its initial impulse. But if journalism under the stress of strong emotion can become literature, pictorial journalism can clearly become art of a rare order.

● *One Hundred Wartime Drawings* is at David Messum, 8 Cork Street, W1 (0171-437 5545) throughout the summer

AROUND THE GALLERIES

YOUNG artists always believe they are not getting enough attention. But often it is the more mature who are really neglected. Cyril Reason is a good case in point. He studied at the Royal College in the early Fifties. He established his own style early on, with a series of mostly dark-toned, richly coloured figure compositions, often with some notable literary source for their imagery. His retrospective at the Morley Gallery (he was director of art at Morley College during the Seventies) is not so much a chronological survey as a confrontation between works of the Nineties and some early works which have a kinship in subject matter, to show both continuity and lines of development. Reason's painting today is, as it always has been, richly evocative and many-layered with reference, but the prime impulse remains, as it should be for any painter, a need to express in visual terms.

Morley Gallery, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-928 8501), until May 18

□ John O'Connor is perhaps due, at 82, for rediscovery. In his case painting has remained in the shadow of his work as a print-maker and particularly a wood-engraver. But in one of his early books he described himself as "a painter who likes to engrave from time to time", and painting in watercolours and in oils has always been of great importance to him. His show at the Rocket Gallery is the first in London for some 15 years, and shows his art to be as vital as ever. The subject matter, as with all his work, is the English scene, surveyed with a pantheistic sense of the mystical undertones. In the major oils quiet rural scenes are suffused with apocalyptic sunset splendour which will amaze those who know only O'Connor's unique skill in black and white.

Rocket Gallery, 13 Old Burlington Street, W1 (0171-434 3043), until June 3

□ Largely self-taught (despite a brief stint at Swansea School of Art), Vera Bassett has been painting and exhibiting regularly since the late Forties. Her art, as displayed at the Barley Drey Gallery, is curious and highly personal, hovering on the borders of the primitive

but ultimately quite as knowing as it needs to be. The style and vision are very consistent all the way through from the earliest to the latest: Bassett works in watercolour and crayons, almost always painting groups of women, usually suggestive of the Twenties in their anachronistic devotion to the cloche hat. The colours are very pale and delicate, the world depicted quiet and enclosed — though sometimes a breeze seems to have sprung up from nowhere to endanger the hats and make the overcoats billow. Comparisons with Gwen John seem far-fetched, but finally are not so far wide of the mark.

Barley Drey Gallery, 62 Old Church Street, Chelsea SW3 (0171-352 8686) until tomorrow

□ Ken Hughes is a sculptor on a small domestic scale, producing odd, cartoonish groups in brightly painted plaster. The inspiration is generally theatrical: the sculptors are rather like models for peopled stage sets, and sometimes they are quite overtly just that, especially two which refer to the *Marat-Sade*. From the work, Hughes could be very young indeed, but it transpires that he was born in 1927 and at the Slade in the early Fifties. It just shows that the best way of staying ageless in art is to take no notice of fashion.

Browse and Darby, 19 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 7984) until June 8

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Patients who see an operation as the safest form of contraception should be warned, writes Dr Thomas Stuttford, that complete protection is an illusion

Suspicion follows a failed vasectomy

MANY years ago, before the days of DNA testing to settle paternity disputes, a colleague came to see me about his wife's pregnancy. The jubilation of forthcoming fatherhood was absent, replaced by doubts, suspicion and fears. The trouble was that eminent urologists had previously assured him that he had a derisory sperm count and was certainly infertile. His wife had always seemed as steady as Caesar's, but he now wondered if the threat of life-long childlessness had so enhanced the charms of some fellow delegate met at a distant conference that she had strayed. I wondered too, but a search of the literature found more than enough quoted cases in which men with low sperm counts had had children to calm his fears. His daughter is now

grown-up and looks reassuringly like her father.

If pregnancy despite a low sperm count can occasionally cause domestic disharmony, the emotions felt when one occurs after vasectomy and subsequent negative sperm checks are even more intense and engender a greater suspicion of infidelity.

In the journal of the Medical Defence Union (the insurance company that protects doctors against patients' claims) Joseph Smith, a consultant urologist, has recently reviewed the possibility of

pregnancy after vasectomy. He suggests that all patients sign a Department of Health consent form explaining that there is still a very small chance of a return to fertility. The *Lancet* has also recently published case histories of six men seen by Mr Smith's team.

In these men negative sperm counts were followed by pregnancy and DNA testing proved paternity. One man had eight negative sperm counts after vasectomy, but still his wife conceived.



It is estimated that one in 2,000 vasectomies fails, usually through the formation of a new channel at the site of the operation, but possibly occasionally because sperm have lingered in the seminal vesicles. Mr Smith emphasises that conception is more likely when a low sperm count follows the vasectomy than when it is part of a general pattern of infertility. Vasectomy is often requested because a man's sperm have already proved highly

fertile: in those cases in which the sperm numbers have always been low individual sperm may also be of poor quality.

Sperm quality is important. Ideally they should be present in large numbers, at least 20 million per ml, with more than 60 per cent of normal shape and size. More than half must still be frisky three hours after ejaculation. Just as not all greyhounds are born chasers, ready to run straight for their quarry, nor will all sperm swim purposefully towards the ovum. This ability to swim in the correct direction, like a good greyhound running

from the slips, and not to mill around aimlessly, is known as its linear sperm velocity. Its importance has become recognised only recently with the advent of computer-assisted aids.

There have been arguments about the desirability and safety of vasectomy over 25 years, but the attacks have been directed at the possibility of side effects, not on doubts as to the operation's effectiveness as a contraceptive measure. No form of contraception, however, carries a 100 per cent guarantee against failure. The MDU's plea is that patients should be told that a small risk of conception remains. Mr Smith has found in his practice that this risk is so small that few if any patients opt to use additional methods afterwards.

Could you save a child from drowning?

Dr Trisha

Greenhalgh on the techniques that every parent and pool owner should know

Dale Taylor owes his life to his school swimming teacher, who last summer pulled him unconscious from the ten-metre pool in which he was having a lesson. An intrepid five-year-old whose confidence exceeded his ability, Dale slipped off his armbands and, like many non-swimmers of his age, sank like a stone without any sign of a struggle.

Swimming teacher Jane Hine, a lifeguard with 17 years' experience, quickly initiated the rescue drill. It was probably less than a minute between Dale's last gasp of air and Jane's first breath of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The emergency services were summoned but by the time the ambulance and helicopter arrived, Dale was sitting up and talking. His subsequent physical and mental development have been entirely normal.

The human brain can usually survive a mere three minutes without oxygen before sustaining permanent damage. The sophisticated life-support equipment available in hospitals and, increasingly, carried in emergency vehicles, are rarely immediately to hand at the scene of a submersion injury. Survival depends crucially on the speed and efficiency with which mouth-to-mouth resuscitation (the "kiss of life") and external cardiac compression ("heart massage") are initiated. Without additional equipment a doctor or paramedic can do little more than a properly trained first aider.

The physiology of drowning and near-drowning is complex. The ultimate cause of death is invariably lack of oxygen to the brain, but high levels of the waste gas carbon dioxide can also contribute to brain damage. After submersion, an adult victim usually takes an involuntary "breath" and may suck water into the lungs (aspiration). Fresh water is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and puts extra strain on the heart. Salt water stays put and draws fluid into the lungs, causing body fluids to become superconcentrated. In practice, these complications matter little to the first aider since the metabolic abnormalities can only be corrected later in hospital.

The controversial Heimlich manoeuvre, in which the victim is vigorously squeezed to clear the windpipe and lungs of aspirated water before beginning the kiss of life, is not recommended by medical advisory bodies. Despite theoretical arguments in its favour, there is little evidence that it saves lives in practice, and precious seconds can be wasted before mouth-to-mouth resuscitation begins. A submersion victim who does not start to breathe immediately when pulled to safety should be checked quickly for obstruction in the mouth (such as seaweed or vomit), then placed directly on his or her

Victims usually drown in about six minutes

back with the head tilted back and given the kiss of life.

Survival after prolonged submersion has occasionally been described. It is widely believed that very cold water will ensure survival for up to 30 minutes, but in reality most victims would drown in water at any temperature after about six minutes. Lucky survivors have often swallowed enough cold water to reduce their core temperature (and therefore their brain temperature) to less than 33°C. In addition, they probably belong to the 15 per cent of the population who have an unusually well-developed "dive reflex" — a physiological reaction to cold water when the pulse falls dramatically and blood is redirected from the skin and intestines to heart muscle and brain.

While the chances of survival are high for children such as Dale who get into difficulties in supervised pools and are resuscitated promptly, drowning remains a leading cause of death in children, particularly in the one to five age group. Statistics from America and Japan suggest that infants aged six to 12 months are most likely to drown in buckets or bath water, whereas toddlers aged one to four usually drown in private pools or ornamental ponds.

For older children, the risk is mainly rivers, lakes and beaches. Adolescents tend to drown in association with alcohol, driving, boating, and what Americans call "dare-deviling". Boys of all age groups are three times as likely to drown as girls.

In Britain, swimming pools in the home are uncommon and submersion incidents are relatively rare (1.5 per 100,000 children per year in England and Wales compared with 3.8 in America and 15.5 in Australia). However, unsupervised pools are becoming the norm in private health clubs, campsites and luxury blocks of flats. The hire of pools for children's birthday parties, where qualified lifeguards are not always present and the ratio of adults to children in the water may be low, is increasingly popular.

Surveys in America have shown that few private pool owners know how to resuscitate a submersion victim, and that the risk of an incident in the first six months after installing a private pool is one in 40 — a figure which falls to one in 100 for any subsequent six-month period.

The single most effective preventive measure for private pools is secure fencing which has been shown to reduce child drowning deaths by more than 50 per cent. The fence should separate all sides of the pool from both the house and the sun-bathing area and be no more than four inches off the ground; gates should be self-fastening and open away from the pool to stop them being shoved open. In 1990, compulsory fencing was introduced in New South Wales, Australia, but the legislation was repealed after intense pressure from civil liberties groups and pool owners.

Other preventative measures which have proved effective include compulsory

resuscitation training for pool owners and education of parents about the dangers of leaving small children unsupervised, even for a moment, near open water. Because the population of new parents is constantly changing, any public education campaign would need to be repeated every two to three years. Pool alarms and pool covers have not been shown to prevent drownings, probably because they are rarely in use at the time the incident happens.

Teaching babies and toddlers to swim does not reduce the risk of drowning and may lead to a false sense of security. The two-year-old who can stay afloat in a heated public pool may not fare so well if he falls fully clothed into the neighbours' fish pond. Infants who can swim at a young age and who do not fear the water usually lose the dive reflex and may be at greater risk if submersion occurs. Nevertheless, taking a baby "swimming" is a sociable and health-giving family activity.

Outside hospitals, the only time I have resuscitated a drowning victim was when I was an off-duty passer-by. Now that drowning lies third only to road accidents and homicide as a cause of death in young children, surely training in basic life support should be a priority for parents and grandparents, as well as for the owners of private pools and ponds?

● Royal Life Saving Society, Mountbatten House, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7NN; St John Ambulance, 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EF.

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Jeremy Laurance on the tragic death of a City high-flyer

The fatal shock that a single nut can deliver

People with a serious allergy to nuts must carry adrenalin every day of their lives



Katrina Farrell-Gisse gave away her adrenalin kit

Twenty-four hours before she died, Katrina Farrell-Gisse performed an act of generosity that may have cost her life. On her way to work as a senior banking adviser in the City of London, she stopped to help a woman suffering an asthma attack outside Fenchurch Street station.

As a lifelong asthma sufferer herself Ms Farrell-Gisse could not pass by a fellow victim. Because she also had a severe allergy to nuts, she carried an adrenalin kit for use in emergencies. She offered the kit to the woman, who gratefully accepted it.

The following day, Ms Farrell-Gisse was lunching in a restaurant with a colleague when she saw a delicious-looking dessert served at the next table. She ordered one but realised it contained nuts only after eating the first spoonful. Without her adrenalin kit she was helpless. Within minutes her breathing became laboured and she lapsed into a coma. Two days later she died. She was 37.

Her grieving friends and colleagues are convinced that with more careful instruction and more serious warnings she might still be alive today.

The adrenalin kit she gave away outside Fenchurch Street station was the second of two she had been prescribed. The first she had used herself a month earlier during a trip to Budapest. Coming out of a hotel after dinner, she had

been offered a mint which turned out to contain an almond. She got out her kit but did not know how to put the syringe together or how to inject herself. "There was blood all over the hotel lobby," she joked with a friend later.

cereals for breakfast at the bank and didn't notice that they contained peanuts. I remember the doctor on that occasion warning her that each time the shock to her heart was becoming more violent and required a larger dose of adrenalin.

"She tried to be careful but I don't think she was really conscious of the extreme seriousness of her condition. Giving away her adrenalin kit was a wonderful gesture but maybe it cost her life. People must be warned. She was a gorgeous woman and only 37. It is too young."

Her sister, Pia Barbe-Massin, said that all through Katrina's childhood doctors had said her allergy would ease with age. Instead it had intensified. "She liked to enjoy

life. She was divorced but she had a wide social circle and went out a lot. The alternative was living in a bubble, which was not her style. I feel that the point is not driven home firmly enough that people with these problems have to carry an adrenalin kit every day of their lives and be taught how to use it."

An allergy to nuts is estimated to affect 1 per cent of the population and causes up to five deaths a year. Proteins in the nut trigger a massive immunological reaction which causes the body to go into anaphylactic shock, in which all the major systems shut down. A quick shot of adrenalin to kick-start the heart is then all that stands between life and death. No one knows why nuts cause so severe a reaction, though scientists at Southampton University are trying to identify the protein responsible.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign gained 2,000 members in its first year. It was started by David Redding, whose daughter died after eating a portion of lemon meringue pie which contained nuts. "People are not getting the guidance they need," he said.

● The Anaphylaxis Campaign, PO Box 149, Fleet, Hampshire, GU13 9XU (012523 15723). Please enclose SAE.

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How a British actress became a film star by playing a fat, frumpy teenager

'People think you're more worthy when you're thin'

Minnie Driver tells Julia Llewellyn Smith about her Hollywood success and her new role as an MP's sultry mistress

The last time I saw Minnie Driver she was lying on a bed, curls snaking around her head, wrapped in an unseasonal leopardskin coat. She said "darling" a lot and had a habit of breaking unexpectedly into a giddy soprano. It was a June afternoon in the London Borough of Wandsworth and this glamorous creature was planning an InterRail trip with my best friend's sister's best friend.

She was 16-years-old, with a body which, if it had belonged to someone else, would have been described as fat, but because it was Minnie's was simply voluptuous. Asked what she wanted to be, she said "a star".

Eight years later, Minnie remembers her teenage self and grins. "I was much more actressy than I am now," she says. "I suppose once you're actually doing it, you don't have to pretend any more."

Not that the 24-year-old Minnie is any less dazzling. Tall, tanned and curvaceous (definitely not fat), with a wide, white smile, she looks every bit the movie star she has recently become. Her first feature film, *Circle of Friends*, opens here on Friday, on a wave of ecstatic reviews from America, where it has taken more than \$20 million.

She became the talk of LA by abandoning any notion of glamour. To win the role of Bernadette, the film's frumpy teenage heroine, Minnie was told to stop exercising, start eating and forget about being beautiful. By the time she started filming, Minnie had put on two stone. The director Pat O'Connor was delighted. Minnie was horrified.

"I was appalled at my own vanity," she says, sitting in the Savoy Hotel and picking at a starter portion of Caesar salad. "When I first saw the film, instead of watching this wonderful character I was playing, I was worrying about the way I looked. There is no doubt that people think you're more worthy when you're thin, and that dragged up ghosts from my own life, of my puppy-fat days."

Weight-conscious Hollywood was equally fascinated by her professional sacrifice and duly

impressed at the post-production slimline model. "Interviewers would ask me in all seriousness if I was going to make my own diet and exercise video." She howls with laughter. "They would ask what my diet secrets were. I would say 'eat less and move around more' and they would write it down as if it were the gospel." She grins wickedly. "Come to think of it, I should. I'd love to single-handedly sabotage the diet industry."

But Minnie contributes far more than a bloated silhouette to this excellent film, based on a Maeve Binchy novel, in which she is wonderfully touching as clumsy Bernie, a Dublin student in the 1950s, learning some tough lessons about friendship and love. "Everyone knows a Bernie. She is non-

'Interviewers asked me what my diet secrets were. Eat less and move around more, I said.'

threatening, the nicest friend we have and therefore open to abuse," says Minnie.

The same could not be said of Jennifer Caird, an MP's mistress, who is played by Minnie in *The Politician's Wife*, a schlocky three-part drama which starts on Channel 4 on May 16. Her role consists largely of semi-pornographic telephone conversations with the high-flying minister, played by Trevor Eve. "When I went to the screening I did think 'Oh no, what have I done?' during those bits," she says. "And I couldn't believe the way people hissed when I came on. I wanted to say 'She's the wrong one, you are taking the surface scape-

goat.' The MP is the real villain, she loved him, he treated her badly." She sighs. "But it's always frustrating doing small, good parts because there's so much more you want to say."

Such parts seem unlikely for a while, although she has a cameo in the new James Bond, *GoldenEye*, as Robbie Coltrane's cabaret-singing girlfriend. Next she is off to New York to star with Marcello Mastroianni and Isabella Rossellini in an art movie called *The Big Night*. "Journalists have been accusing me of abandoning Britain, as if I had a choice about it. I struggled to get any continuous work here — last year was a fairly fallow period for me. Now I have a whole wealth of opportunity and of course I am going to go where the work is."

She has, indeed, done her stint on the aspiring actor's *Casualty* and *Lovejoy* circuit, but on the whole it has been a charmed life. The youngest child of a financier and former model, most of Minnie's childhood was spent at the family's second home in Barbados, before Bedales, the progressive boarding school in Hampshire, and drama school at 17.

She has a flat in Chelsea, which she shares with her sister Kate. They are off to find an Elizabeth Horley-type dress for the *Circle of Friends* premiere. "I don't have a date for the premiere, so I'll just go with my friends and enjoy myself all the more." In Hollywood, she chuckles, she would have asked her agent to call "some young actor I fancy" and ask him to accompany her.

"It's ridiculous the way complete strangers ask you to their parties there," she giggles, puffing on a Marlboro Light. "And if you go and you drink wine they say you're an alcoholic and if you don't they say you're in AA. I don't order anything any more."

Despite the amused griping, she is having the time of her life. "My agent said 'I hope you are keeping a diary.' I said 'Why? So you can option it when I'm 45?' She said 'No, because you will never forget this time of your life and she's right. I couldn't be happier.'"



America loved her in *Circle of Friends*; Britain will hiss her in *The Politician's Wife*; and Minnie Driver is having the time of her life

Why are the young so hooked on nostalgia?

Adolescence now lasts until 30 with all the egotism that goes with it. They no longer want to grow up

GIVEN that many people actually did feel that the war years were the best of their life, that for all the dreadfulness, nothing was ever quite as right, as real, again, it is surprising how briskly un-nostalgic the events, or the events surrounding the events, of the past few days have been. That, of course, is why — with the exception of the *jeux sans frontières* jollifications introduced by Sir Ian McKellen in Hyde Park on Sunday — it has all been so moving. Real feeling, not sentiment has been expressed.

But then, nostalgia has ceased to be the preserve of the old and has become instead the dominant neurosis of the young. In the Sixties those who harped on the good old days were scorned as squares; now the backward glance is the latest look. A sociologist might be well-satisfied with the obvious interpretation that springs to mind, that in an age of mass and enduring unemployment and the social ills that accompany it, there is not much for many of the young to look forward to. No wonder they feel that memory lane is the only street they will ever find that is paved with gold. As they will ever find that it doesn't suffice. The fashionable plundering of the past is not just to do with the economy. Watching television the other day I was surprised to see an advertisement for a record of hits of the Eighties. The soppy nostalgic tone of the commercial seemed crackpot. Not just because there really doesn't seem that much to evoke, to want to bring back, but because it isn't long enough ago to have been forgotten in the first place.

Actually, I quite liked some of the songs. Well, one does like records one danced to. We were depressed to at university or wherever it might be — and hence the projected appeal of the album — but I don't feel old enough yet to get nostalgic for my youth. Like eye-cream, I feel that it can wait a while. I rather liked all that Seventies stuff until that, too, became newly fashionable. For one thing it's annoying when one's quirky tastes become orchestrated eccentricities, but more than that, I

began to feel that I was never going to be allowed to leave my youth. Just this week yet another Seventies Season has been declared at Channel Four.

All this supports the thesis above. I suppose in the old days people felt that adulthood was worth achieving because with it came money, your own home, a job, freedom. No longer evidently. When I was 15 I regarded it as immensely flattering to be taken for a 28-year-old, it was indeed what 15-year-old girls strive towards. Now the young no longer want to grow up.

Just as the growth of political correctness has been rightly attributed to the Left being deprived of power in the public sphere, and turning the personal into an arena of political interest instead, so the lack of engagement in what we may think of as the outside adult world has led many of the young towards an infantile introspection. Adolescence now lasts until 30, with all the irritating egotism that goes with it. The nostalgia business is just narcissism by another name. Every track of one's

life must be recorded, rerun and watched, studied, listened to again and again. And the soundtrack goes Me-Me-Me.

This is all the more evident in the false nostalgia that is the real business. The wistful, pseudo-ironic evocation of the Seventies and Eighties is really for kids who were babies when the records were talking about were in the charts. Seventeen-year-olds can't remember any of this stuff, but they are reclaiming it for themselves. All this flogging of other people's past is self-centredness no less: think of it as one big tantrum. "Not fair," they're saying. "You had this and we didn't, we feel left out," they wail. What these narcissistic souls can't bear is that there exists an age, a time, anything, of which they were not a part.

I wish I could claim as my own the conceit that nostalgia isn't what it used to be. Still, it's true, and there is something creepy in coming over sentimental about other people's memories.



NIGELLA LAWSON

Dr Mawhinney's motorway madness

Peter Millar asks what happened to the Tory love affair with the private car

Anyone on the move anywhere — and that includes most of the British nation over the past few days — will not, while cursing the hideously expensive cones positioned "to protect the workforce" even while said workforce is on holiday, have failed to notice the huge blue signs: "Department of Transport: Investing in Roads". All part, we are told, of the Tory love affair with the private car, which goes back to Margaret Thatcher's vision of it as the engine of freedom. Cars are the guarantors of individualism. Cars get the nation moving. Motorways make them move faster. There you are consistency.

So why on earth has Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, announced a trial speed limit of 50mph on sections of the M25 London orbital motorway which will, if judged successful, be extended to other busy motorways around the country?

What Dr Mawhinney has been doing, of course — like everyone else before a Bank Holiday weekend — is listening to the weathermen and women. In their quest to become television "personalities" these weather persons are no longer content with detailing the antics of isobars but, in addition, offer us tips on what factor sustains lotion we should be applying or stand in for the local GP with advice to asthmatics. And what they have been saying



The biggest factor in car pollution is numbers, not speed

over the past few days of sweltering heat is that a huge fog of pollution had collected over Britain, much of it due to car exhausts.

Enter Dr Mawhinney with the whizzo idea to make the Government look hyper-reactive and announce that he is introducing a trial speed limit.

But what on earth is the point of building motorways the length and breadth of our supposedly green and pleasant land, if you then force people to drive on them more slowly than they may currently do on country B-roads? Stand up and be counted all you protesters against the extensions to the M11 and M65. Dr Mawhinney is secretly on your side. He is not

a substantial increase in the duration of the exhaust emissions.

But wait a minute, I hear you howl: 75mph is an illegal speed, 5mph more than the existing limit. Indeed, it is also lower than the average speed on the outside lane of most of our motorways when traffic is free-flowing. Official figures from the police and motoring organisations show that about 70 per cent of motorists break the speed limits.

The probability is that 90 per cent of M25 users will break a 50mph speed limit, given the chance to go that fast. The law in this case is not an ass, but a backseat passenger in the slow lane.

"Speed kills" is — if not wholly a lie — at best a misrepresentation of the facts. Accidents at high speed are more likely to be fatal, but what causes accidents is not speed but bad driving. In many conditions acceleration can save lives. Slow drivers are as likely to cause accidents as fast ones.

In Germany and much of America, for example, the law requires any driver going so

slowly that a large queue of vehicles builds up behind him to pull in and let others pass.

The debate over motorway speed limits in Germany remains intense, with manufacturers and drivers ranged against greens and nanny-staters. The current stand-off is: controls in areas of environmental concern such as the Black Forest, but no national speed limit.

Although the German accident rate is higher than that in Britain, particularly since unification when millions of drivers unused to anything faster than a fibre-glass Trabant with a two-stroke engine were let loose on the autobahns, the result is that where speed limits are in force, the majority of drivers obey them.

Whereas "rules are made to be broken" is a good old aphorism reflecting our plucky British refusal to knuckle under to bureaucrats, it is a different thing entirely if we substitute the word "laws" for "rules". Laws are made to be obeyed. So it is best not to make silly ones, especially in response to the weather.

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Twisting Yeltsin's arms

Will Russia accede to Western requests, asks Martin Fletcher

Today, in Moscow's Red Square, President Clinton will join President Yeltsin to watch celebrations of the past, choreographed right down to the last goose-step. Tomorrow, behind the Kremlin's walls, the two men will discuss the future at what is probably the least choreographed summit since Presidents Eisenhower and Khrushchev held the first in 1959.

With the notable exception of President Reagan's surreal encounter with President Gorbachev in Reykjavik in 1986, when the two men were transported by dreams of a non-nuclear world, these summits have almost invariably been minutely scripted events at which the leaders rubber-stamp agreements and communiqués prepared long in advance by minions.

Not this time. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, has been talking constantly to Andrei Korynev, his Russian counterpart, in a fruitless bid to ensure that the two presidents will be able to announce progress on the three issues poisoning relations between Russia and the United States: Moscow's determination to sell nuclear reactors to Iran, its brutal suppression of Chechnya, and its fierce opposition to any expansion of Nato.

Mr Clinton has had several recent exchanges by telephone and letter with Mr Yeltsin on these issues, but without reaching any understandings. In the margins of London's VE-Day celebrations on Sunday, Vice-President Al Gore met his friend Victor Chernomyrdin, Russia's Prime Minister, but even this usually reliable "back channel" for averting major clashes achieved no breakthrough.

American officials concede, astonishingly, that the summit's success now depends on Mr Clinton's personal diplomacy, his ability to revive the spirit of trust and cooperation that infused the Bill 'n' Boris show before last December's disastrous Budapest meeting, when Mr Yeltsin suddenly decided Nato's expansion plans and warned of an imminent "Cold Peace".

Mr Clinton hopes that face-to-face he can persuade Mr Yeltsin to override his advisers and take snap decisions on his own. The White House has watched the bumbling Russian President become an intermittent player in the government of Russia, little focused on major issues and increasingly dependent on a small cadre of conservative aides. It believes that the American case against the Iranian reactor sale in particular may never have been fairly presented to him.

The summit is a huge gamble for Mr Clinton. He has been criticised at home for choosing — despite his advisers' objections — to celebrate VE-Day's fifth anniversary in Moscow rather than in London, particularly when Russian troops are running amok in Chechnya. Even as Air Force One left Washington yesterday, American newspapers were proclaiming the

appalling massacre of women, children and the elderly in a farming village called Samashki.

Mr Clinton can offer few concessions to help Mr Yeltsin. The new Republican masters of Congress are tired of the Administration endlessly accommodating an old foe with an economy scarcely the size of Brazil's and a military establishment so feeble that it is struggling to suppress a small internal revolt. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, pointedly warned Mr Clinton on Sunday that "your job isn't to go to Russia to make Yeltsin happy". On the other hand, Mr Yeltsin, who faces resurgent nationalism and reelection next year, cannot risk being seen meekly capitulating to American demands.

The Iranian reactor sale is the make-or-break issue. Mr Clinton considers it so important that on April 30 he banned American trade with Iran so as to speak with greater moral authority.

Mr Clinton will present Mr Yeltsin with top-secret American intelligence showing that Iran has embarked on a crash programme to build nuclear bombs. He will beg Mr Yeltsin to consider whether Russia really wants "atomic ayatollahs" on its southern border.

Yeltsin must choose between the West and isolation

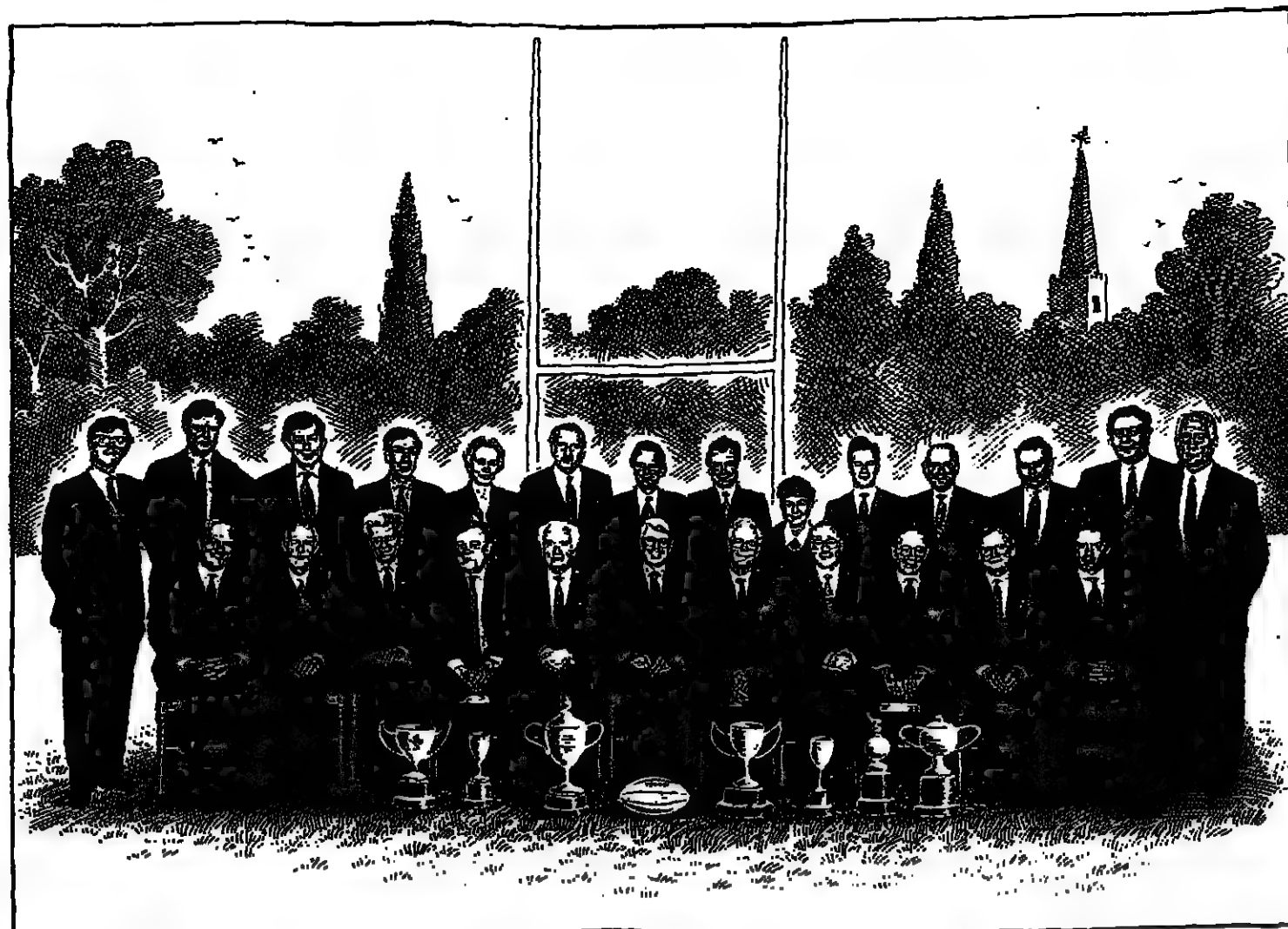
Mr Yeltsin may offer to withhold a gas centrifuge plant capable of producing weapons-grade uranium, and to retrieve Iran's nuclear waste, but Iran will still acquire vital nuclear expertise.

This will be an excruciatingly painful decision for Mr Yeltsin, one that finally forces him to choose between Russia's further integration with the West and a retreat into ultra-nationalism.

He faces huge pressure from a military-industrial complex that desperately needs hard currency, argues that the Americans are seeking to give almost identical nuclear reactors to North Korea, and claims that they want to block the sale so as to monopolise the world's lucrative nuclear power industry. Perversely, Washington's virulent objections have made it harder for Mr Yeltsin to cancel the sale without becoming nationalist fodder.

But he must also weigh the enormous cost of being seen helping America's most dangerous and implacable enemy to obtain nuclear weapons. The consequences, Mr Gingrich warned, would be "catastrophic". Not only would revenues from the \$1 billion deal be more than offset by the certain loss of American and international aid, but the case for the West continuing to mollify Russia would collapse.

Republicans would legitimately argue that if Moscow defies Washington on an issue of such magnitude, nothing can be gained by further delaying Nato's enlargement in deference to Russian sensitivities. Mr Clinton, personally rebuffed by Mr Yeltsin and scolded politically, would very likely agree.



TWENTY-FIVE OLD FARTS

Barbich

A better plan for Europe

Timothy Garton Ash suggests an all-European alternative to the Franco-German gamble on monetary union

I have been told, by a reliable witness, of a dinner at which Jacques Chirac was asked about Saddam Hussein, of whom he had, some time before the Gulf War, been a professed admirer. "Oh, he's changed a lot, you know," came M Chirac's prompt reply. This classic piece of politician's wisdom can be applied, with rather more truth, to M Chirac himself: and on few subjects has he changed more than on 1000078 of Europe. While at the moment of his election on Sunday he declared that, under his presidency, France will be "the motor of the European Union", the speed at which he hopes the motor will run, and the direction in which the vehicle is supposed to be heading, remain unclear.

Yet the awkward fact is that he will inherit from his predecessor a truly breathtaking project for Europe to the end of the century. This project has a supposedly binding timetable, laid down in the Maastricht treaty. Facing the reunification of Germany five years ago, François Mitterrand felt it to be more urgent than ever to bind Germany into Europe. Curiously enough, Chancellor Kohl wants the same thing, so that the Germans will not be left alone to face the temptations of the past in the centre of the Continent. The chosen path is monetary union. In Chancellor Kohl's view, this, with its inevitable and desired political consequences, is to make the process of integration "irreversible". France and Germany are to form the "magnetic core" of a uniting Europe. But where they lead, other states, including Britain, are to follow. EU-rope after next year's inter-governmental conference (IGC) will be multi-speed but still moving in one direction.

The trouble is that this project is very likely to fail. Monetary union itself might fail, obviously, at the first or second fences, because even the core economies are not close enough to stand the strains, or because either French or German political opinion turns decisively against it. How can Chirac deliver his central election promise to reduce unemployment while at the same time bringing down France's budget deficit to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria and keeping the franc free in preparation for economic and monetary union? The name of Philippe Séguin stands for an already formidable body of respectable opinion opposed to the Maastricht project on Chirac's own side of the political spectrum. Meanwhile, German public opinion

is loath to give up the mark, and even Chancellor Kohl is now saying that the convergence criteria are more important than the timetable. Both countries are due to have parliamentary elections in 1998, just as monetary union — according to the timetable — comes to the crunch. Monetary union might also fail after the event: nothing except death is irreversible, and European history offers several examples of failed monetary unions.

Yet it may also fail by succeeding. That is: success in the narrow, technical sense, but failure in its broader purpose.

The countries in the single market but not in the core monetary union would face both pressures and temptations to pursue a different economic policy from the core. How, for example, would the core-group countries react to a flooding of their markets by British, Italian and Spanish goods made cheap by devaluation? (That would be shortsighted of us, but most governments are.) A single market is perhaps difficult to sustain without a single currency, but it may be even more difficult to sustain with a clear, formalised division between monetary core and periphery. And how would this work in the councils of EU-rope? Would representatives of the core states have separate meetings on those fundamental issues of fiscal and macroeconomic policy on which they would now have to reach a common stance? Or would the core group be a permanent caucus, coming to each council with an agreed position? One of the great strengths of the EU is its flexibility: you have changing national alliances on different issues. Set one alliance in concrete and you risk breaking the whole structure.

The great gamble of this continental project is that the Franco-German core will indeed be magnetic, that where Bonn and Paris lead, others will sooner or later follow, and the reason people in Bonn and Paris (and quite a few older "pro-Europeans" in

London) think this will happen is that that is roughly what did happen for about 35 years, from 1955 to 1990. But a process that worked, almost with the regularity of a physics experiment, in the air-cooled laboratory of Western Europe in the Cold War will by no means necessarily work in the same way in the much larger, messier post-Wall Europe of today.

Anyone who has played with magnets knows that they can have two effects: one way they attract, the other way they repel. There is now a serious danger of the would-be magnetic core exerting repulsion. The best can be the enemy of the good. The rationalist, functionalist, perfectionist attempt to "complete" Europe using a hard core built around a rapid monetary union could well end up achieving the opposite effect. A procedure aimed at finalising the bad old European ways of competing nation-states and alliances risks hastening a return to precisely those bad old ways. Press "fast-forward" and you go backwards.

Yet even if it succeeds, both economically and politically, even if Britain and others in the EU once again follow where France and Germany have led, this in itself offers nothing to the rest of Europe knocking at our door. Indeed, the whole IGC process threatens to be "Maastricht II" in the sense that the leaders of EU-rope may again be so totally preoccupied with the EU's own internal reforms that they simply won't have enough time, energy and attention left for the parts of Europe where our actions might actually make the difference between democracy and dictatorship, war and peace. They'll still be fiddling in Brussels while Sarajevo burns.

However, it is not enough just to point out the flaws and dangers in the Franco-German project. The French and Germans will rightly retort: do you have a better one? For anyone who cares about Europe, the task is therefore to come up with a better

one. Or at the very least, to ensure that there is something else under way so that the whole European enterprise at the end of the 20th century is not seen to stand or fall by this hair-raising adventure of unification through money.

That something should, I believe, be a detailed project both for the enlargement of the present EU to include the recently liberated new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, and, simultaneously, for a more closely coordinated, and in some respects "common" foreign, security and defence policy, to meet the challenges and dangers both within Europe itself and from the dangerous world around. This project would approach the political goal directly, by political means, not through economics.

Unlike monetary union, this would not be one simple big thing but a whole jigsaw of complex, piecemeal things, since it would necessarily involve many other, overlapping European institutions, and above all, EU-rope's second pillar: Nato. It would, however, require more sharing of power and sovereignty: both in the form of qualified majority voting, without which an EU of 20 or more states would not work, and in the rather different procedures for what one might call qualified minority acting (by varying groups of states, but usually involving France, Germany and Britain) — which are what is needed in foreign and defence policy.

But if you don't care about Europe, just about Britain, why bother, why pay the price? For two reasons: because if we don't we'll be left out, and because if we don't we'll be dragged in. Left out, in the short term, from the next stage of Franco-German EU-ro-building, with (at the very least) high risks for Britain, but then dragged in by the probable failure of that design and by the disorder of the rest of Europe which that design does so little to address.

Fifty years on, we remember Britain's unique contribution to the Victory in Europe with wholly justified pride. But we had to fight that war partly because of an earlier British policy based on the mistaken belief that Britain could, by a diplomacy of detachment, insulate itself from those European quarrels in faraway countries of which Chamberlain knew nothing. Wrong then, even more wrong now.

This article is adapted from a longer essay in the current TLS.

If we don't care about Europe, we will pay the price twice over

Turn the heat on Blair

Woodrow Wyatt on where Labour is vulnerable

Refreshingly, after last Thursday's council losses, Malcolm Rifkind recognises that there could be a Tory electoral defeat. Boasting you are certain to win, contrary to politicians' belief, has never been popular with voters, as top-of-the-charts boy Blair will discover. Most are susceptible to a little flattery. "It is an honour to serve you and we hope to convince you we have the right policies" is a better line. The country has never been more prosperous or less prone to inflation. Exports exceed imports. Unemployment falls faster than on the Continent and in most industrialised countries. Average disposable incomes, even during the recession, continue rising above inflation. Mr Major is a statesman of world class whose economic policies are succeeding. So are his patient negotiations for permanent peace in Ireland. That it is no longer dangerous to shop in Belfast or London or any other large mainland city, apart from the sporadic antics of animal rights protesters, is almost entirely due to him.

There is nothing wrong with Mr Major's message, except that, prompted by a hostile press and media, the public are either unaware of it or bored by it. There is an undoubted but irrational feeling that it is not good for democracy for the same party to be in office so long. Under this delusion, millions are willing to vote for the opposite of what they want, as they did when electing fanatically pro-Brussels Socialist Euro MPs and replacing Tory councils with incompetent, overspending councils with higher council taxes and poorer services. The Tory army is battered, defeated and now prone to defection. This is the moment when a good general, as I am sure John Major is, rallies his troops by switching from enervating defence to attack. The enemy is far from invulnerable.

Last Thursday, only 38 per cent voted in the local elections, compared with 44 per cent three years ago. In percentage terms, Lib Dem gains in council control were more than twice Labour's. In the main the abstainers were disgruntled Tories. Today, party allegiance is thin and volatile. Voters are blown hither and thither by winds of fashion. The solid vote for Labour has withered, and there never was one for the Lib Dems. Basically we are a conservative nation and the hard-core vote is strongest among Tories. The Conservatives might have lost Scotland, but the Scottish Nationalists are poised to seize Labour seats despite, or perhaps because of, Blair's promise of a separate assembly with the power to raise income tax above the levels elsewhere in the kingdom.

Labour's intention to establish regional parliaments without referendums in England and Wales, and the higher public spending associated with them, should be persistently exposed in Cabinet Ministers' speeches. Labour must be pressed systematically on its subservience, through acceptance of majority voting, to the edicts of the EU and on ever closer political union leading to the extinction of our parliamentary sovereignty, with British laws and judges' decisions reversed by alien courts. The cost in British jobs and international competitiveness of a Labour government ending our opt-out from the Social Chapter must be hammered repeatedly. So must the crippling of businesses, small and large, by a statutory minimum wage. And by how much will taxation be increased to meet Labour's promises to spend ever more on social security, education and other public services?

Blair pretends to have distanced himself from the unions. But the price he paid for union support for his hollow Clause Four victory is a pledge to reverse many of the union reforms and add new penalties for employers and employees. From day one, employees will have the same protection against dismissal as if they had been employed for two years. Employers will be bound by law to recognise unions as wage negotiators, whatever the wishes of the workforce, thus bringing back the closed shop preventing employment of any not in the union — an arrangement which blighted British industry for decades. However much he wriggles, Blair must dance to the tune of the unions, which pay four-fifths of Labour's income and have not forgotten that they created the Labour Party in 1900 to represent their interests, not the nation's.

Mr Major must put Labour on the spot by backing compulsory, unforgeable identity cards, carrying vital and voluminous information. Not only would crime be reduced, but around a million illegal immigrants in this country, many of whom are ill-qualified in jobs which should be filled by British nationals, could swiftly be rounded up and deported. Labour even opposed the DNA database and the obtaining of DNA samples, which enabled the arrest of 900 burglars suspects in one day last week.

There is unlimited ammunition to blow away Blair's camouflage of high-flow words. The enemy, whether allied to the Lib Dems or not, is ripe for destruction. For the Tories to win, the order must be attack, attack in unison, and attack again.

Double date

QUITE extraordinary behaviour by Helmut Kohl, the sizeable German Chancellor, on Saturday night after he had indulged in the VE-Day banquet at London's Guildhall with more than 50 other heads of state.

Six courses were consumed (see below) together with plenty of wine, after the speeches by the Queen and the Lord Mayor. But evidently all this was not enough to satisfy Herr Kohl. By 11.15pm he was queuing up for another dinner, at Sir Terence Conran's splendid eaterie Le Pont de la Tour, in the company of a diplomat.

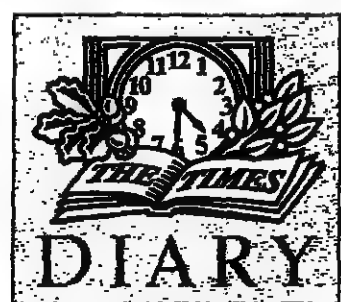
"At first I didn't notice him because Sean Connery was there and all eyes were naturally on him," another guest reports. "Then someone pointed him out as he was tucking in. He's certainly a good trencherman."

An embarrassed restaurant manager forbore to reveal the exact specifications of Herr Kohl's second meal, but confirmed that the German Chancellor did, indeed, take full advantage of the three-course menu. But Le Pont's "modern European" cuisine may be more to Herr Kohl's taste than

the traditional British fare served at Guildhall.

VE-DAY BANQUET MENU	
Champagne	Label of the Western Approaches with a Jubilee of English Aquaplane and Neutrality Flavour
Stouffed Chaudronnery 1993	
Escalope of Poached Atlantic Turbot tied with ribbons of Scottish Savoyed Salmon with Welsh Leek served with a maitre d' sauce	
Gardens of English Sorbet	
Honey Dreg of Old England	Yorkshire Pudding
Devon Jersey Royale	Carrot and Sauté Potatoes
Roasted Beetroot	Children's Primrose Lickies 1952-4 and Cuvée
Lead Soufflé of English Berries	Brown Brothier Orange Flavour Mince 1994
Coffee	Petit Fours
Waffles 1978	Delicacies 1963

● The bronze statue of Sir Winston Churchill dominating the facade of the British embassy in Washington need not rely on lottery funds. American members



of the English Speaking Union, who donated the work, keep a special supply of bronze clogs in case the present one wears out.

Little Wren

NOT EVEN a quick intake of breath was needed when Richard Branson's mother, Eve, donned her wartime Wren's uniform yesterday. A one-time signaller, she laid a wreath on board a restored Royal Navy motor torpedo boat at Chichester in memory of Wrens killed in the war.

"I have kept my uniform and hat ever since my demob at Southsea in 1945 and I still fit into it quite easily," she boasted.

● All the "old farts" furore proved to be great for the luxury makers.

Aston Martin. They had lent Will Carling a beautiful new cherry red DB8 for the weekend, little realising that it would be snapped by hordes of photographers pursuing England's rugby captain.

Following O.J.

LORD HOPE, Scotland's most senior judge and not a man renowned for sensationalism, has admitted he is addicted to the O.J. Simpson trial. His Lordship — of whom the late Sir Nicholas Fairbairn once remarked: "to call him grey would be an insult to porridge" — introduced TV cameras to Scottish courtrooms.

"Courtroom technology in Scotland is in the era of the hot-air balloon in comparison to the O.J. Simpson courtroom," he says.

French leave

A HINT OF mystery hangs over Bernadette Chirac's reaction to her husband's elevation to the Elysée Palace. While news of his election victory seeped through on Sunday night, France's first couple whizzed around Paris in their shabby grey 1970 Citroën CX with little security, but pursued by a daredevil cameraman on a motorbike.



John Patten and the absent eight-year-old, Mary-Claire

"Suddenly the car screeched to a halt in the rue de Seine (on Paris's Left Bank)," my insider reports. "Bernadette got out, looking furious, slammed the door and evaporated into the night."

Spot of bother

THE guest of honour at John Patten's party tonight to launch his book *Things to Come: The Tories in the 21st Century* has cried off.

She had purchased a new frock and even fashioned a short speech. But Mary-Claire Patten, eight, has chickenpox. "She is quite covered in spots," her distraught father explains. "My book is dedicated to her so she really was the most important guest." The text of Mary-Claire's speech was admirably straightforward, however. It read: "Please buy my daddy's book."

P.H.S

مجدد من الاصل



WHAT CHIRAC MEANS

Amid all the confusing promises, watch the economy

In victory, Jacques Chirac was unequivocal. "Our main battle has a name: the fight against unemployment." Before reaching any decision, he insisted, his ministers would "ask ourselves whether this will be good for employment." The conventional remedies, he said, had failed: new methods would have to be tried. When — and by implication, only when — France was free of the scourges of joblessness and "social exclusion" it would again be "the driving force of the European Union".

In Brussels, Bonn and Britain, analysts have been poring over candidate Chirac's sparse and often ambiguous campaign statements on the European Union for weeks, trying to guess which of them President Chirac would adhere to. So far they have only a Delphic answer. M. Chirac's first foreign call will be to Helmut Kohl. So far, so familiar; but the prediction of Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, that "practically nothing will change" in the Franco-German relationship may not outlast this first substantive exchange.

M. Chirac can be expected to embrace the Chancellor warmly and express his determination to develop a common strategy for next year's intergovernmental conference to review the Maastricht treaty. But, recalling his campaign promise to reinforce a "people's Europe", he will argue that Germany must realise that its federalist blueprints were almost as widely distrusted in France as in Britain. The implicit new bargain along the Franco-German axis would include French support for enlargement of the Union — but on condition of German readiness to accept that "Europe" can never displace the nation state.

M. Chirac's version of European integration is instinctively populist; he promised a referendum on the 1996 conference only at the end of the campaign, but it is a promise he is likely to keep. One of his firmest and most consistent pledges is to ensure that Europe wins popular assent — through reforms giving more power to national parliaments over the Union's destiny, and more

power over the European Commission for the ministers that voters elect. A "Europe of nations" is also a matter of political calculus: even with the campaign over, M. Chirac cannot afford Cabinet splits over European policy in the first intensive phase of his bid to heal France's domestic divisions.

The second reshaping of Franco-German policy will concern monetary union. M. Chirac has promised to keep "the rendezvous of 1999". But he will ask Germany to support him, as he challenges the financial orthodoxies of the French Establishment in order to stimulate the economy. Without questioning the goal of monetary union, he may argue that economic convergence, required by the Maastricht treaty, can no longer be pursued at the cost of fracturing France's social cohesion.

For more than a decade, France has shadowed the German mark: in the same period, French growth rates have fallen behind the EU average, while unemployment climbed steadily and without regard to cyclical fluctuations in the economy. Breaking that cycle, through a mix of fiscal reforms, deregulation and temporary employment incentives, could mean a patch of rough water for the franc. It makes sense for France to argue that convergence should be measured in broader terms than success in fixing the franc-mark parity — and that monetary union between an economy as strong as Germany's and a partner struggling with chronically inflated debt would impose such intolerable strains as to put the broad political goal of European integration at risk.

No French politician would be so crude as to pin "The economy, stupid!" to his office wall, as President Clinton's campaign team did in 1992. But M. Chirac is, by French standards, a very American politician. As John Major tries to track what may otherwise seem the bewilderingly inconsistent European course set by France's new President when he hosts the European summit in Cannes next month, he could do worse than remember the Clinton slogan.

HER OWN VICTORY

A glorious weekend for the people and their Queen Mother

Celebrating fifty years of peace while commemorating a mighty but costly victory was always going to demand a special sensitivity. The Second World War cannot be encapsulated in two days of ceremony, nor emotions so distant and so varied be recaptured with fidelity. After the banality and clumsiness that marked the initial proposals for the D-Day commemorations, there were widespread fears that VE-Day would turn into a tasteless and synthetic carnival. In the event, it was a triumph: an occasion where the mixture of memories, emotions, hopes, symbolism and grandeur was judiciously balanced and blended.

The credit — like the credit for victory itself — must be shared by many. The organisers had clearly learnt the lessons of the D-Day commemorations: not a gesture was included without the consent and support of the veterans, not a bar of music or line of poetry without careful consideration of its import. The slightest carelessness in protocol could have given gratuitous offence to present and former allies. Lord Cranborne, the chairman of the D-Day ministerial steering committee who, at the last moment, rescued dignity from kitsch, again demonstrated his sure touch.

Credit also belongs to those of all generations who took part — the dancers, bandsmen, pilots, veterans and actors — who performed with precision and feeling. The laying of flowers at the great globe of peace engaged and brought together the

visiting statesmen, provoking also touches of spontaneity from those who clasped the hands of the children leading them to the flower-laying.

There were some false notes: while Vera Lynn fully lived up to the old memories, the choice of Cliff Richard to hop and wave at Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with "Congratulations" was bathetic. But the sun brought out the crowds, relaxed the mood and dissolved any lingering tensions over the inclusion of Germany and other nations which fought against the allies.

The focus, inevitably and rightly, was on the Royal Family as the embodiment of the nation's unity, identity and pride. On Sunday it was the Queen who was hostess to all the monarchs, presidents and prime ministers who came to Britain in recognition of this country's central role in achieving victory and laying the foundations for fifty years of peace in most of Europe. Yesterday, however, on the anniversary of VE-Day itself, it was for the Queen Mother that the vast crowds gathered outside Buckingham Palace. With the passing of the generation of wartime leaders, she remains a living link to those terrible times. Her courage and serenity then inspired the nation; her steadfast endurance now commands the love and respect of a generation not yet born when she came out on the balcony of Buckingham Palace in 1945. Churchill told the crowds then: "This is your victory." Yesterday it was hers.

ON TRACK

Privatisation could now be a real bonus for rail commuters

After months of hints that a major ideological shift on transport policy has taken place in the Cabinet, Brian Mawhinney is expected to announce officially this week that commuter rail fares will be capped. Limits on ticket prices will apply both to services that continue under the aegis of British Rail and to the new privatised service providers. To ensure that prices do not rise above socially acceptable or economically justifiable levels, the Government envisages a statutory formula. Fare types will be sorted into groups, each with a specific baseline related to the Retail Price Index. Rises will be permitted to match the RPI for an initial period, after which they will be held to 1 per cent below the rate of inflation.

For many rail travellers, the cost of commuting is expected to fall in real terms by early 1996. Such strict controls on fares would mean that the new privatised franchise holders would either have to operate at the level of efficiency undreamt of by the most optimistic BR managers or that they will continue to depend on public subsidy.

This price-cutting policy on commuter train fares is consistent with the Government's tacit repudiation of its earlier political preference for private over public transport. The decision to cut back spending on new roads was clearly a breach with the long-standing Conservative commitment to the standing of the private car. At a time when levels of air pollution are becoming increasingly alarming and more and more cities are attempting to limit the use of cars, such a change of heart is very welcome.

Transporting vast numbers of people from outlying suburbs to work in city centres is most efficiently done by a well maintained and competently-run railway. The nationalised railway industry has been discredited by trade union restrictive practices and an unproductive reliance on taxpayers' money. By dictating ticket prices, the Department of Transport can claim that it is enforcing efficiency. Having shown itself ready to accept the argument that building more roads simply attracts more traffic, the Government may now discover the corollary: that a cheaper and more efficient rail service will attract more passengers, which will in turn make the railways more economically viable.

By announcing its fare-capping rules in advance of any lines being sold, however, the Government is usurping the function of an industry regulator. This further confuses an already less than coherent privatisation. It is clearly hoping to allay the fears of rail commuters that privatisation will force up travel costs. But the message that is really being sent is far more politically significant. It is tantamount to an acknowledgment that commuter rail services cannot be run effectively without public subsidy. This is good news both for commuters and for Britain: the country requires an effective infrastructure to prosper. But if John Major's Government is prepared to accept that there will be an indefinite need for rail subsidy, it would do well to embrace that view openly, rather than appear to maintain a half-hearted reluctance to support public transport.

Getting the best from teachers

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, It is sad to see facts being ignored when a valid argument is being presented (leading article, May 3).

A full reading of the HMI reports by the Office for Standards in Education shows that "10 to 15 per cent of schools suffer from insufficient stocks of books, both quantitatively and in range".

In primary schools it points out that "few of the schools have teachers who had studied mathematics beyond the minimum professional requirement of their initial training qualifications". It emphasises that while some had benefited from in-service training, the majority had not.

This shortage of resources and lack of provision of in-service training have been highlighted in research carried out by Coopers & Lybrand for the government investment in resources and training if the national curriculum was to be introduced effectively. In-service training, like books, costs money both to provide and to ensure supply teachers are recruited to cover the absence of a teacher on a course.

You are right: "Appraisal must acknowledge strengths, diagnose failures and lead to action where it is necessary." That action must be to develop strengths and overcome weakness. Sadly, the Government has cut the funding for the in-service training demands arising from appraisal.

If schools and teachers are given the necessary support, if schools are inspected fairly and constructively, if appraisal is accompanied by the resources for in-service provision, and then teachers are identified as incompetent, there is no place for them in the teaching profession.

Yours sincerely,
DOUG MACVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, W.C1.
May 3.

From Mr M. G. Fischer

Sir, I have much sympathy with today's leader. However, last week's Times Educational Supplement had 290 pages of advertisements for

Teachers head teachers faced with the need to find an aspirant to stand before a class of 30 pupils cannot afford the luxury of searching over-long for a good teacher, with an excellent command of the subjects to be taught, who has jettisoned outdated educational doctrine and woolly ideology and dresses as a professional. They have to take on the best that is available at the time.

The rooting out of mediocre teaching will take longer than you think.

Yours respectfully,
M. G. FISCHER
(Head Teacher)
St Mary's C/E Primary School,
Laureston Place, Dover, Kent.
May 3.

Classroom costs

From Mr Mike Stephens

Sir, The leader of Birmingham City Council (letter, May 3) advises Woodrow Wyatt to seek the views of classroom teachers on whether or not the employment of a "behaviour support officer" is a waste of money. It would surely be more interesting and relevant to ask taxpayers for their view on such expenditure.

Yours faithfully,
M. STEPHENS,
9 Harvey Close, Norwich, Norfolk.

Industry beckons

From Mr I. D. Bruce

Sir, Next year will be the tenth anniversary of the launch of Industry Year 1986 by Sir Geoffrey Chandler and the Royal Society for the Arts. This highly successful initiative was vigorously taken up at the time and helped to promote the importance of industry to us all, both nationally and in local communities. Much was done to enhance the confidence and pride of people at work in industry in the value of their jobs.

Since then industrial performance and competitiveness has made enormous strides, as demonstrated by export performance, customer service and quality. There is a real success story to shout about.

However, neither the internal esteem generated in Industry Year, nor our recent industrial successes, have yet been matched by the attraction into industry of sufficient of the best of our young people.

Too many still seek to join the legal or accountancy professions, stay in the academic world or go into government work. Worthy activities though these may be, they are not going to bring home the bacon for the UK in the next century.

How can we generate the social prestige which ought to be associated with a successful and effective industrial career?

Yours faithfully,
I. D. BRUCE,
1 Sandway Park,
Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Population control 'interference'

From Mr David Alton, MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh proposes that we should "interfere" to remedy alleged imbalances created by humanity through growing population (report, May 1).

People in developing countries have had more than enough interference in their lives under population control programmes fuelled by the kind of approach that the Duke is endorsing. Interference leads to coercion and to an appalling abuse of human rights.

Her Majesty's Government continues to pour taxpayers' money into the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the United Nations Population Fund which, in turn, provide backing for China's infamous programmes of forced abortion and forced sterilisation.

It is also a tragic paradox that the United Kingdom can help to fund a

contraceptive activist for every village in Bangladesh but cannot fund even basic health care in the same villages. Poverty, not population, is the issue. If the Duke studies Irish history he will note that family size reduces with prosperity.

Concern for wildlife and the planet too often leads to calls for population control which involve a total lack of respect for the families targeted by government "family planning" programmes.

The Duke should also consider evidence which I recently submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment of damage to water, marine life and humans from contraceptive by-products which pollute our domestic water supplies and subsequently reduce male fertility and feminise those contaminated.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ALTON,
House of Commons.

Churchill papers

From Professor Emeritus Nicholas Kurti, FRS

Sir, The Contemporary Scientific Archives Centre in Oxford, established in 1973 under the auspices of the Joint Royal Society/Historical Manuscripts Commission, chaired at the time by me, and its successor the National Cataloguing Unit for the Archives of Contemporary Scientists in Bath, catalogued and deposited in archives in this country the papers of nearly 200 scientists and engineers.

Many of them were active in public life, some were Nobel laureates and not a few of those collections would have found ready buyers on international markets. To the best of my knowledge they were all generously given to the respective archives (letters, April 28, 29, May 3, 8).

Yours faithfully,
N. KURTI,
Brasenose College, Oxford.
May 3.

From Mr Michael Worth

Sir, When the British Museum was established over two hundred years ago, the majority of books, manuscripts and pamphlets, already exist-

ing in major private collections, were not in fact given. The collection of Sir Hans Sloane, which formed the greatest part, was offered for sale to the nation after his death, for £20,000. The Government of the day raised the sum required by setting up a public lottery.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WORTH,
41 Wolds Drive,
Keyworth, Nottingham.
May 3.

From Mr Neil Benson

Sir, The Director General of the Imperial War Museum (letter, May 3) refers to the original German surrender document that Field Marshal Montgomery donated to the museum. You reported this in 1968. I wondered how he was allowed to keep the document. I wrote to him on October 10, 1968, to ask him. He returned my letter two days later with the following reply endorsed thereon: "There is no mystery. I was ordered to send it to Supreme HQ. I refused! It was quite simple."

Yours faithfully,
NEIL BENSON,
Coombe Cottage, 8 High Road,
Wilmington, Dartford, Kent.
May 3.

Highland sleeper

From Mr Peter Carter-Ruck

Sir, The condemnation by Scottish peers of the threatened closure of the West Highland sleeper services (report, March 28) and the fears of the overwhelming majority of the public that privatisation will lead to truncated and reduced services on the railways would appear to be fully justified, but even more serious is the deceit to which we are now being subjected by British Rail (report, May 6).

The public were informed on April 11 that the Rail Regulator, John Swift, QC, had given an assurance that the future of the sleeper and Motorail services in Scotland would not be a mere formality.

If this were true, why, when I sought to book first-class sleepers to Fort William for two occasions in June, was

I informed that the sleeper service "did not exist" (sic) at the end of May?

The only service I was offered, after that time, was to travel from Euston to Glasgow, arriving there at 06.40 to off-load with my luggage and transfer to another station in Glasgow, leaving there at 08.12 to arrive at Fort William over three hours later than the time of arrival on the sleeper service.

The alternative is further to congest the roads and add to pollution and inevitable stress. It seems that the findings of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (reports, October 29, 1994) — "The reign of the car must end" — are to be brushed aside and our great railway system eroded and mutilated in pursuance of the dogma of privatisation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER F. CARTER-RUCK,
75 Shoe Lane, E.C4.

Identity cards

From Mr Arthur S. Pook

Sir, I cannot agree with Mr David Amess, MP, about religious information on identity cards (letter, May 3; other letters, April 29, 28, May 4).

Not the least important function of an identity card is to provide important information when the bearer is unconscious or otherwise incapable of giving it. On being admitted to hospital, one of the first questions asked is, "What is your religion?" Having it on an identity card might make all the difference to a dying patient.

Yours faithfully,
A. S. POOK,
5 Dumdough Village,
St John's Town of Dalry,
Castle Douglas, Kirkcubrightshire.

From Mr Colin Garrett

Sir, Last autumn I renewed my Connecticut driving licence. On it appear my licence number, the date of expiry, the class of vehicles I may drive, my name, address, date of birth, the issue date, my sex, the colour of eyes, height, photograph (twice) and my signature. All this on a piece of plastic the size of a credit card.

Bearing in mind the number of useless plastic cards that people carry around these days, the addition of an identity card should not be a problem.

Yours truly,
COLIN GARRETT,
17 North Road,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Robert Robinson

Sir, Mr Bernard Hayman (letter, May 3) invites those who object to identity cards to say why. My answer is that I am under no obligation to identify myself to Mr Hayman or anyone else unless I see fit.

But if identification is to rest on the production of the right card, then the company I am about to set up will supply Mr Hayman, or anyone else, with one, indistinguishable from the real thing, and at the keenest rates.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ROBINSON,
16 Cheyne Row, SW3.

Homosexuality in Armed Services

From Mr M. J. Burrows

Sir, Major-General Jaepes argues (letter, April 29) that homosexuals should not be allowed in the Army lest soldiers lose trust in their mates.

In the Army unit in which I served I would have trusted 10 per cent of my companions with my life. Another 10 per cent I would not have trusted as far as I could throw them. The remainder of the unit ranged themselves in between. Trust is not solely related to sexual polarisation.

General Jaepes is concerned that lovers will develop links that are prejudicial to good order and military discipline. Strong links have often developed between heterosexual soldiers, many of whom have been decorated for the commitment they have shown to their mates who have sustained wounds under fire.

But all this is by the way. Britain is a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights. The court set up under this agreement is likely, in the near future, to rule that our Armed Forces discriminate against homosexuals. Once more we are likely to be treated to the spectacle of large amounts of the taxpayers' money being paid out — as when the European court ruled that there was discrimination against pregnant women when they were dismissed.

The Armed Services must modify their attitudes before there is another substantial drain on defence funds in favour of litigants.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BURROWS,
16 Palatet Close,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.
May 1.

From Mr Peter Tatchell

Sir, For many of us in the lesbian and gay community, the VE-Day celebrations have been tinged with sorrow. Many thousands of homosexual and bisexual people enlisted in the Armed Forces to help defend freedom against Nazism. But it was a freedom they were never allowed to share.

Twenty-two years passed before the partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality in 1967. But as an added insult to those who had risked their lives fighting Nazism, this excluded members of the Armed Forces.

It was almost 50 years after the end of the Second World War before lesbian and gay service personnel ceased to be court-martialled and imprisoned.

The most fitting tribute to the sacrifices of homosexual soldiers from 1939-45 would have been for the Ministry of Defence to rescind the ban on lesbians and gays in the military.

Yours etc,
PETER TACHELL,
45 Arrol House,
Rockingham Street, SE1.

From Professor J. F. Lazenby

Sir, Whatever the force of the rest of his argument, Major-General Jaepes cannot be allowed to get away with the sweeping assertion that "homosexuals can have no place in... a fighting Army".

Homosexuality was positively encouraged among Spartan soldiers, and it can hardly be denied that theirs was "a fighting army", as for the Theban Sacred Band, supposedly composed of homosexual pairs, their heroism is said to have won the admiration of even their conqueror, at Chæroneia.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. LAZENBY,
University of Newcastle,
Department of Classics,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.
May 2.

Abolishing TV licence

From Captain M. C. Calder (ret'd)

Sir, I wonder how many of your readers realise that, as far as I can ascertain, we are the last English-speaking nation to be imposed upon by a tax on television by way of a licence.

Australia abolished TV licences more than a decade ago — despite the enormous cost of covering that massive island continent with repeater stations. No TV licence is required in America or Canada. Where does the money go?

Politicians on five-figure salaries seem to assume that the cost of a colour TV licence being substantially more than a week's state pension is a mere triviality, whereas to thousands of pensioners it most definitely is not. I call upon the Government to pass similar legislation, initially in favour of senior citizens.

Yours sincerely,
M. C. CALDER,
17 Charles Road, Holt, Norfolk.
May 4.

Computer language

From the Reverend Terence Lee

Sir, A friend lent me a computer some weeks ago and now I understand something of purgatory. If it could record my monologue I could be unfrocked. At least I know why the arrow which zooms round the screen is called a cursor, if misspelt.

Yours in cyberspace,
TERRY LEE,
45 Christchurch Road,
Reading, Berkshire.
May 5.

OBITUARIES

RAY BUCKTON



Ray Buckton, General Secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, 1970-87, died at his home in Albufeira, Portugal, on May 7 aged 72. He was born on October 20, 1922.

DESPITE at one time being the ogre of commuters, Ray Buckton was a generally popular figure within the trade union movement. He served as chairman of the Trades Union Congress in the year 1983-84 and, through his conscientiousness and dedication (particularly to committee work), was very much a supporting pillar of the old TUC.

Elected the Irish officer of his union, almost invariably referred to as Aslef, at the comparatively late age of 40, Buckton then took very little time to reach the top. By 1970, well before he was 50, he had already achieved the leadership of the old engine drivers' union. Sadly, however, for him its great days of power and influence were already past. The union's strength, with a membership of over 70,000 in the early 1950s, had been allowed to drain away in a Luddite struggle to maintain the age of steam and keep the modern world at bay: by the time Buckton retired in 1987 membership was barely 20,000 and today it stands at only just over 16,000.

It was, however, Buckton's special talent to keep a kind of phantom war going. He fought it against the British Rail Board (even in the golden days of Peter Parker) against the other rail unions (with whom he steadfastly opposed any form of merger) and, above all, against the unfortunate travellers on the Southern Region (for whom he soon succeeded Dr Beeching as their prime figure). It was, in his way, a remarkable achievement — if only because the clouds of dust and smoke he regularly managed to emit served effectively to disguise the essential weakness of his own negotiating position.

The principal assets he brought to his task of pretending to a power he did not really possess were a natural gift for manipulation and a flair for publicity. Unlike, say, Arthur Scargill, he did not himself demand the time-

light. Indeed, he was often most effective behind the scenes. From his modest home in Edgware constantly available to, and usually on excellent terms with, the traditional corps of newspaper industrial correspondents, Buckton played much the same role on trade union questions that a political Chief Whip can aspire to on parliamentary matters. When it came to a "steer" or a "nudge", there was no greater master in the trade.

In public, his favoured pose was that of the bluff, straightforward Yorkshireman — although those who took that at face value were liable to discover themselves deceived. Even a Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer, who once roundly accused him of "industrial blackmail", did not take long to find himself the victim of the silky newspaper riposte: "I prefer to keep my language more moderate." But he was

not above touching populist nerve-ends either. An early opponent of the British Rail Pension Fund's decision to invest in works of art, he immediately proposed that the trustees should instead buy the surplus land that BR was already disposing of and build houses for railwaymen upon it.

Even so, there were occasionally indications down the years that the same stubborn left-wing rhetoric concealed a shrewd appreciation of the declining role of the trade union movement in Britain, the alienation from it of its natural base in the working class, and the need to face up to reform — though not, of course, if it came in the provocative shape of the "flexible rostering" proposals of 1982.

Aslef was never helped by his own highly wary and suspicious relations with the two other main railway unions — the National Union of

Railwaymen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association. These differences were not confined to the industry: they were political as well. Buckton never forgave the other rail unions for not putting the old principles of the Triple Alliance into action over the miners' strike of 1984-85.

Raymond William Buckton was every inch a product of the old Labour movement. Born in the North Riding of Yorkshire, the eldest of seven children he left school at 14 to go to work as groundsman on a local estate. But an early love of trains took over and by the age of 16 he was working as an engine cleaner — the first rung on the ladder to becoming an engine driver (an ambition he was eventually to fulfil).

The nearest major railway centre was York and it was there that the young Buckton went to live, becoming chairman of the constituency Labour Party and the youngest-ever alderman on the city council. Like many trade union officials of that era, he owed his education as much to the Workers' Educational Association as to the years he had spent at the Appleton Roadbeck Elementary School.

Within the TUC — he was elected to the General Council in 1973 — he was an assiduous committee man, serving variously on the international, finance and general purposes, social security, industrial welfare and economic committees. It was a considerable shock — and not only to him — when in an early anti-Left purge he was voted off the General Council (at a time when he had been absent through illness) in 1986. The following year he retired from the general secretariatship of his union — vowing that he would continue to "fight day and night for a sane, disciplined transport system". In fact, he went on to found a Mexican restaurant in Bushey, which he ran for a year before selling up and using the proceeds to buy a villa in Portugal.

A gregarious man — he was among other things an accomplished harmonica player — Buckton enjoyed the happy companionship of his wife Barbara, herself a popular personality in the trade union world, whom he had married in 1954. She survives him together with their two sons.

THE HON LADY JOHNSTON



The Hon Lady Johnston, photographer, silversmith and childhood friend of the Queen, died in London on April 26 aged 88. She was born in London on April 3, 1927.

BROUGHT UP very much in court circles, Elizabeth Rosemary "Libby" Johnston was the younger daughter of the 2nd Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, who as Alec Hardinge was Private Secretary to King Edward VIII and King George VI. Her father was the man who had to warn King Edward that the press silence concerning Wallis Simpson was about to end.

After the Abdication, he guided King George VI in the early years of his reign, until his resignation in the summer of 1945. Libby's mother, Helen Hardinge, was well known for the two books she wrote, *Loyal to Three Kings*, about her husband's career, and *The Path of Kings*. She was the daughter of Lord Edward Cecil and his wife, Violet Milner, editor of the *National Review*, so Libby's immediate forebears could have claimed to be both servants of the State and intellectuals. Her mother was also a childhood friend of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who was a bridesmaid at her wedding, and was Libby's godmother.

Libby and her brother thus grew up in and around the royal palaces, playing cricket in the Colour Court of St James's Palace and using the ceremonial colour holder as a wicket. They particularly loved their holidays at Alnham on the Balmoral estate, though they clambered out of a window at the back of the house if they spotted Queen Mary's old Daimler heading towards the house for tea. Ruddyard Kipling took an interest in Libby as a child, corresponding with her and addressing her as "Sally". The Hardinge children were presented to many of the great men of the day who moved in their parents' orbit. As Libby's sister once put it: "We were an ordinary family living in extraordinary circumstances."

The Hardinges introduced the Viscountess de Bellingue (whose son, Geoffrey, is the present Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures) into the Royal Household and for a

time Libby was taught by her in the same schoolroom as the Queen. "Tonton" as she was known in the Household, gave the children what she called "une formation générale". Libby took part in the Christmas pantomime, *Cinderella*, in December 1941, playing Dandelion to the Queen's Prince Florizel and Princess Margaret's Cinderella. The production was directed by Hubert Tannar, headmaster of the Royal School at Windsor and performed in the Waterloo Chamber, for the benefit of King George, Queen Elizabeth and their friends. Both the Princesses took a key part in the production introducing family jokes with hidden allusions, references to the latest war developments and light-hearted digs at members of the Household into the script.

Later Libby went to St George's, Ascot and then studied in Oxford, soon gravitating towards the lectures given by her cousin, Lord David Cecil. Just as the war ended she turned 18 and joined the WRNS, serving from 1945 to 1948. After a secretarial course at Queen's, she took a job at the Siamese Embassy. In November 1949, she married John Johnston, later Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Johnston, then a junior officer serving in the Grenadier Guards. In the next few years they were stationed in three different parts of Germany. His military career over, Johnston became in 1964 Assistant Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Office. This Libby was once again in the royal milieu, and for 22 years they lived at Adelaide Cottage in the Home

Park at Windsor, where at Christmas they often entertained the Royal Family.

But she had a career entirely independent of this. She was a professional photographer, who took memorable photographs of children, with whom she enjoyed a particular affinity. She also took landscapes, wild life and also some informal images of the Royal Family, several of which were published. She took the photographs for two books of interiors by David Hicks, and she was called in to take the photographs of the Duchess of Windsor on her last visit to England in 1973 to visit the Duke's grave.

She undertook considerable charity work, notably for the blind, and was trustee of a probation hostel, Manor Lodge, in Old Windsor. She also served as a magistrate in Windsor. She took a more enlightened view than many of the pop festivals staged in Windsor Great Park in 1977, visiting the drop-outs and drug-addicts and taking an interest in their plight.

She organised three visual art exhibitions in Windsor Castle as part of the Windsor Festivals of the 1970s. One, *Royal Performance*, was an exhibition of works of art by members of the Royal Family from Tudor times to the present day. These ranged from oils and watercolours by Prince Charles and Prince Philip, to a feather picture by Princess Margaret and an early table by the 16-year-old Viscount Linley, then at Bedales. This was the first time that such works had been displayed as a group. The following year, the exhibition *Off to the Races* consisted of works of art connected with Royal Ascot.

She loved Wales, where they had a cottage. She worked as a craftsman, creating Welsh love spoons in silver. She was a great encourager of the endeavours of others, and as a friend put it, possessed "a capacity to reassure people of their own value". She showed considerable courage in the 12 years of her illness.

She is survived by her husband, who retired as Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's office in 1987, a son who is a theatre director and a daughter who designed the costumes for the award-winning film, *Forrest Gump*.

ALEXANDER KNOX



Alexander Knox, actor, died in London on April 26 aged 88. He was born in Strathroy, Ontario, on January 16, 1907.

SOME few actors are famous primarily for not being famous. Alexander Knox was the perfect example. Never quite a star, never just a supporting actor, he was one of whom critics said of his every appearance (and they were many) how extraordinarily good he was, and what a pity it was that no one recognised it.

There was no doubting his sheer skill as an actor on both stage and screen. He personified solidity and reliability, perfect as a doctor or a lawyer whose word one would take without question, ideal as a deceived husband who suffers philosophically while the principals of the piece are off having an unprincipled but passionate good time. In such roles he would garner sympathy but most people in the audience would secretly understand why the fireworks were happening elsewhere as a leading man he had every desirable quality, except that extra spark of excitement.

On the other hand, while glittering romantic leads came and went, Knox was always there, always comfortably in work. He had a surprisingly long career, making his stage debut in 1929 and appearing in his last film in 1985. If he had any regret about his career it was probably that he had very seldom been allowed to escape from high seriousness into comedy — for which, indeed, he had a recognisable

talent, as his appearance in a script he wrote for himself, *The Judge Steps Out*, in 1947 unmistakably demonstrated. But if the crisp, ironic edge he had at his command was seldom allowed full play, it was always there to light up corners of the more serious roles. For that matter, he could be good as quietly menacing villains, but seldom except in Joseph Losey's *The Damned* (1961), where he played a fanatical exponent of genetic engineering, was he given a chance at all-out barnstorming.

In many ways he was really defined by the role he played at the peak of his Hollywood career, President Wilson in Henry King's reverent biopic *Wilson* (1944), for which Knox received an Oscar nomination. For the purposes of the film Wilson as the alleged peacemaker of 1918, who moved in full of ideals to put the follies of Europe to rights, was shown as so wise and saintly that the result was a bit stuffy. Perhaps understandably, the film was much more highly valued in the United States, where it struck the required chord for the last year of the Second World War, than in Europe, where it was vaguely respected but disregarded. Not that this made much difference to Knox's standing in Britain, where he had worked regularly in the decade preceding the outbreak of war and whether he was to return more or less permanently once the war was over.

Alexander Knox was educated at the University of Western Ontario after which

he made his debut in Boston in 1929. But he almost immediately moved to London where he began a busy stage career, frequently, but not necessarily, playing American roles in plays like *Anna Christie*. His first big personal success was at the Old Vic in the 1937-38 season when, after appearing in various lesser parts in a repertoire which included *Richard III*, *Macbeth*, *Othello* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he was given the leading role of Dr McGilp in *The Man From*

Nowhere. He also played in Shaw, appearing in *Geneva* in London and in *Good King Charles's Golden Days* at the Malvern Festival.

Back in America in 1940, he at once plunged into a succession of stage productions. In 1942 he was lured to Hollywood to appear in *The Sea Hawk*, and found his true vocation in *Wilson*, followed by a similarly weighty role in *Sister Kenny* (1946), which he helped to script. Indeed, writing was always the second string to his bow; as well as

film scripts he wrote a number of plays — in one of which, *The Closing Door*, he starred on Broadway in 1949 — several detective novels and two much-praised documentary books on native Americans, *The Enemy I Kill*, about the Huron, and *Night of the White Bear*, about the Inuit.

When his Hollywood career began to lose momentum in the later 1940s, he followed a fashionable track back to Europe and the then exciting new school of film-making, Italian Neo-Realism, starring with Ingrid Bergman in Rossellini's *Europa 51* (1952). Settled again in Britain with his actress wife Doris Nolan, he started his British film career with the still blacklisted Joseph Losey's spirited film noir *The Sleeping Tiger* (1954), in which, inevitably, it was not he but Dirk Bogarde who awakened the tiger in his wife Alexis Smith.

From then on Knox was Mr Reliability, always ready for (and always good in) war films like *Reach For The Sky* (1956), thrillers like *The Night My Number Came Up* (1958), period dramas like *Oscar Wilde* (1959), the Robert Morley version and emotional dramas like *Woman of Straw* (1964). His mid-Atlantic diction continued to serve him well on stage, where he could go directly from the lead in Clifford Odets's *Winter Journey* to Wolsey in *Henry VIII* at the Old Vic, and on screen.

His collaboration with Losey continued in *Modesty Blaise* (1966) and *Accident* (1967), and latterly he was to be seen playing costume roles in *Khartoum* (1966) and *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971), entangled with James Bond in *You Only Live Twice* (1967), and being backed out of the limelight by Alec Guinness in *Smiley's People* (1981-82). Always he was good, and always people said what a shame it was that no one realised his true quality. But in a sense that was the key to his art.

LEWIS PRESTON



Lewis Preston, former president of the World Bank, died of cancer in Washington on May 4 aged 68. He was born in New York on August 5, 1926.

LEWIS PRESTON's tenure at the World Bank was comparatively brief: he was appointed in September 1991 and resigned in March of this year because of ill health. But it came at a crucial time for the organisation, which was set up after the Second World War to provide loans and technical assistance to the governments of developing countries. With the breakup of the Soviet Union, Preston had the task of overseeing the entry of the former Soviet republics into the institution and guiding them down the uncertain path toward market economies.

His chief objectives were to make the World Bank more flexible, more cost-effective, and more responsive to prevailing social concerns. To this end he moved rapidly to trim its sprawling bureaucracy, slashing 240 senior management positions from the staff in his first few weeks of office. Bureaucracy, however, knew a trick worth two of that, and the figures showed that the bank's administrative budget in fact increased by nearly 50 per cent, to \$1.4 billion, during Preston's presidency.

The increased costs were caused in part by the admis-

sion of 23 new member nations, bringing the total to 178, and, in part, by mandates from those countries over which Preston had no control.

He frequently found himself in conflict with some members of the board, appointed by member countries, who thought they could manage the bank better than he could. Preston did succeed in some changes of policy, insisting that performance be judged on the success of projects financed by the World Bank instead of, as before, by the mere quantity of loans. He also arranged a sharp increase in loans for environmental projects, health, education and family planning.

With a marked increase in the flow of private capital to developing countries, currently running at \$120 billion, or six times the World Bank's

commitment, Preston saw the role of his institution as advising in the restructuring of the public sectors of client countries.

The grandson of a Confederate officer who later made his fortune with John D. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company, Lewis Thomas Preston spent the bulk of his career after an education at Harvard with the investment bank of J. P. Morgan and Co., where he climbed up the corporate ladder to become chairman of the board and chief executive in 1980. He was a private, reserved man but one who was credited by the current J. P. Morgan chairman, Douglas Warner, as being "the pre-eminent international banker of his era".

Preston took early retirement from J. P. Morgan, where his annual salary had been \$2 million, to accept for a mere \$285,000 a year, President Bush's invitation to head the World Bank and its sister agencies, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. After so many years in the private sector, he said, he felt obliged to perform a public service.

Lewis Preston, who had suffered heart problems in recent years and was under treatment for cancer, is survived by his wife Gladys and five daughters, one from an earlier marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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anniversary of VE-Day the Queen Mother (who is gathered outside the Palace) told the crowds that this is your victory. Page 1

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announcing its far-reaching advance of any lines based on Government is clearly to ally the fears of one that privatisation will force costs. Page 1

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THE TIMES

TUESDAY MAY 9 1995

'I would like to thank Dennis because I put him in a situation which I bitterly regret'

Contrite Carling reinstated as captain

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

PEACE broke out between English rugby union's warring factions yesterday when Will Carling, after an abrupt 70-hour interregnum, was reinstated as England captain. Carling, the leader of the team since 1988, will now take into the World Cup in South Africa, which begins on May 25, a playing party even more united behind him than it was before.

It is an unprecedented climb down by Dennis Easby, the president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), so soon after such an authoritarian display of the presidential powers. Yet both the game's administrators and players recognised how damaging the situation had become, both for the ambitions for the team in South Africa and the image of the domestic game.

They were able to agree a formula that restores Carling for the period of the World Cup, after which his position

surreal quality. Carling was dismissed from his position when the RFU officers decided, on Friday night, they could not tolerate his televised outburst 24 hours earlier describing the RFU committee as "old farts". A distraught Carling was informed of the decision at breakfast time on Saturday morning.

By Sunday, his fellow members of the World Cup squad, which leaves for South Africa a week tomorrow, had united solidly behind the deposed captain and invited the president, at whose instigation Carling was dismissed, to reconsider. Their request was backed by the knowledge that three of the most experienced members of the squad, Rob Andrew, Dean Richards and Brian Moore, would not contemplate being a replacement.

A tense situation eased when Easby made contact on Sunday evening, via a radio talk show, with Jon Holmes, Carling's agent, who suggested a meeting. That 40-minute meeting took place at Twickenham yesterday afternoon. "Will gave the assurances I wanted... after I put certain matters to him and I am delighted to say I have asked him to have back the role of captain," Easby said.

The two men met a relieved Jack Rowell, the team manager, at Marlow to conclude a period which has even ousted VE-Day celebration events from some front pages. The reverberations of the affair, however, will run long because this particular generation of players feel let down by their administrators just when they sought to concentrate on justifying their status as one of the favourites for the World Cup.

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will be reviewed by the RFU in the normal way of all honorary appointments. Carling, however, has also agreed to certain confidential conditions and given the president a written undertaking that he will neither say nor imply in South Africa anything that brings into disrepute the game or the RFU.

"I would like to thank Dennis because I put him in a situation which I bitterly regret," Carling said in Marlow last night, before the England squad's training session. "I have admiration for him for changing his decision to what I think is the benefit of England. The most important thing is for them to be successful in South Africa. It has taken a lot of courage, but now I hope this will die down so that the squad can focus on South Africa."

The events of the past three days have had a slightly

wise I would not have taken the action," the former solicitor said.

"We had the evidence of the documentary (when we met), the problem had been created that Will appeared to have no confidence in the administration. We have now cleared up the problem," Easby evinced

no surprise that the squad had stood four-square behind the captain but, asked if he intended to resign in the light of what must be considered a reverse for the authorities, Easby denied he had any intention of doing so.

Carling, to his credit and possibly well advised by his



Easby, left, and Carling meet the press after the Rugby Football Union's decision to reinstate the England captain yesterday. Photograph: James Morgan

agent and friends, had adopted a mature stance. It was at his insistence that the third paragraph of the official statement, praising Easby, was inserted: "When you look at what I said, I shouldn't have said it," he added. "A lot has actually changed as far as the players and the committee are

concerned in the last two months (since the documentary was filmed in March) and I am hoping that, through Dennis's action, the players will have a lot more respect for him. He has avoided what could have been a stand-off."

Carling had in mind the

words achieved by the joint committee of administrators and players which will bring the England squad far more remuneration than they have received since they set up their own company, Player Vision, four years ago to address their commercial aspirations.

"I hope everything that has

happened will draw the players together," Carling said, a sentiment echoed by Rowell, who suddenly found himself faced with a situation he never envisaged possible. "Will put his foot in it, then helped restore the situation through the grace of the president," Rowell said.

'Words I should not have said'

WILL CARLING, the words that started it all last week on Channel 4's *Fair Game*: "If the game is run properly as a professional game, you do not need 57 old farts running rugby. What I think goes me and a lot of players now is the hypocrisy of the situation. Why are we not just honest and say there is a lot of money in the game? It is becoming a professional game."

CARLING, yesterday: "I regret what I said. I should not have said it. I don't blame the people who made the documentary. The players and me will have a lot more respect for

Dennis Easby in avoiding a bad stand-off. I would like to thank Dennis because I put him in a situation I regret and I am grateful to him for changing his decision for what I obviously believe is the benefit of English rugby."

DENNIS EASBY, the president of the RFU, on Sunday, after stripping Carling of the captaincy: "I accept that I am probably the most unpopular man in British sport right now, but the decision has been made. I stand by it, and there is no chance whatsoever that it will be reversed. I expect to receive hate mail and abusive

telephone calls over the next few days and have a lot of bad things written about me in the press. But I feel I have done nothing but carry out my responsibilities for the good of English rugby."

EASBY, yesterday: "Will and I had a very good meeting. He gave me all the assurances I needed and I am delighted to be able to ask him to take on the captaincy for the World Cup. I regret that it happened, but Will's original apology was not quite sufficient."

JACK ROWELL, the manager of England: "Will put his foot in it, but the situation has

been restored through the grace of the president. It has been the most interesting Bank Holiday ever for me, but we hope that we are stronger for this ordeal."

SEAN FITZPATRICK, the captain of New Zealand: "I'm sure that all the England players will feel they now have a point to prove because of what has happened to Will Carling. If anything, this will make them even more formidable because they will have a greater resolve and the players will be more determined to do well. This could strengthen them."

THE RFU STATEMENT

WILL CARLING wishes to apologise to every member of the committee of the RFU for his inappropriate and gratuitously offensive comment at the end of a recent TV programme.

All 25 members of England's World Cup squad have indicated their support for Will Carling as captain and have respectfully requested the RFU officers to reconsider their decision to terminate his appointment.

Carling would like to thank the squad for their support and also Dennis Easby for his courage in reconsidering his original decision — thus enabling the England squad to have a settled and successful build-up to the World Cup.

In the light of these circumstances the RFU are agreeable to reinstate Carling as England's captain for the period of the World Cup, following which the position will come up for review in the normal way.

This is subject to certain conditions which will remain confidential and the provision of a written undertaking by Carling that he will not say or imply during this period anything which serves to denigrate or bring into disrepute the game or the RFU.

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Tottenham cling to Klinsmann hopes

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GERRY FRANCIS, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, said yesterday that he can still persuade Jürgen Klinsmann to stay at White Hart Lane after he and Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, met Klinsmann to try to

Peter Francisco was yesterday suspended from competition for five years by the world snooker authority after being found guilty of a breach of rules during his defeat by Jimmy White at the world championship in Sheffield last month.

persuade the Germany striker to spend another season in north London.

Klinsmann, 30, has dropped broad hints that he wants to join Bayern Munich during the summer, after he was approached by Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern president and coach during Germany's

successful World Cup-winning campaign in 1990.

However, despite reports to the contrary, Francis said yesterday that no decision has yet been made. He also confirmed that it seemed almost certain that Gheorghe Popescu, the versatile Romania defender or midfielder player, would leave Tottenham after less than a season at the club.

"On Saturday, we said that Sunday's meeting with Jürgen would be the first of many and that's exactly how it turned out," Francis said. "Despite everything that has been printed, the fact is that Jürgen hasn't made his mind up yet."

"Jürgen, Alan and myself had a very amicable conversation over a number of hours and over dinner, when we weighed up all the pros and cons of the situation. Of course, Jürgen will make up his mind at some stage, but in many ways I was quite optimistic at the end of the talks we had. It's still very much a possibility that he will be playing for us again next

season and he certainly hasn't said he will not."

Francis did concede that the flurry of speculation, set in motion by Bayern and continued by the footballer of the year's own remarks, had not helped Klinsmann's form of late. "Just recently, it's all been

getting to him a little bit and it can't do him any good for it to go on," he said. "The main thing is for Jürgen to make his decision as soon as he can. After that, he can concentrate on the rest of his footballing career."

Popescu, 27, who joined

Tottenham from PSV Eindhoven in September, has scored three times this season, including the derby winner against Arsenal in January, but he does not like the style of English football and Francis said that it was evident that he had failed to come to terms

with life in the FA Carling Premiership.

"Popescu has come in to see us and it is clear he hasn't really handled the English game," Francis said. "That's not unusual and many players have had the same problem in the past, which is why Jürgen's success has been that much greater, but Gica finds the physical side, the quickness of the game and the pace very difficult. He is injured, is not going to play again this season and he's told us how he feels, so it looks as if he'll be leaving."

The appeal of the European Cup could persuade Paul Gascoigne to join Rangers and move to Glasgow rather than a host of English clubs. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, confirmed that his club has agreed a fee with Lazio for Gascoigne, 27, after talks between the clubs over the weekend. The price is thought to be around £4.5 million, but Smith must now wait to meet Len Lazarus, Gascoigne's adviser, to discuss personal terms.



Klinsmann is still undecided whether to remain at Tottenham next season

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Fiasco of Carling's dismissal destroys credibility of RFU leadership

Easby moves into untenable position

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF THE decision of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to dismiss Will Carling as England captain was taken in haste, its officers will have opportunity to repent at leisure. They have unleashed a whirlwind that was exactly the opposite of what they intended and leaves them — not Carling — under scrutiny.

It could all have been so different, though maybe, in the long run, if rugby union is stripped of its pretensions, it may become a healthier sport. The initial intimations suggested that the RFU would treat Carling's contemptuous dismissal of those who run the English game as "old farts" with lofty disdain — a practice at which it is quite good.

The remark is, after all, no more and no less than what generations of players have said about generations of administrators. That the England captain should have made it on national television was clearly wrong, a poor example from a man who has responsibilities above and beyond the average player. Ironically, in another televised programme on Saturday — just after Carling's dismissal had been announced — the captain himself adopted a lofty tone.

Addressing a business seminar on the subject of the forthcoming World Cup, Carling said that, if England wished to win the tournament, they had to "play like the best team in the world, train like the best team in the world, behave like the best team in the world". Whether his own behaviour has matched his words is arguable, and comment from Australia over the weekend, where they favour plain speaking, has hinted, with a degree of accuracy, that so public a falling-out would never have occurred there.

The England players might argue that Australia's administrators work hand in hand with their players, but I dare say that even Australia has its share of windbags. However, Dennis Easby, the president of the RFU, could not leave it at a reprimand and, by taking in hand the sledgehammer of dismissal, he has created a wave of antipathy for the entire RFU administration which, by and large, runs a successful game through the efforts of volunteers.

In the face of united opposition from the World Cup squad, Easby has now had to climb down and announce Carling's reinstatement, further damaging his own credibility and that of his position. Moreover, it leaves the new



Carling talks to reporters outside his home in Putney yesterday morning before meeting Easby at Twickenham. Photograph: Des Jensen

administration, which takes office after the annual meeting on July 14, with a huge repair job. Indeed, it might be a tactical move to offer the podium at the meeting to one of England's senior players, so that their views on the way forward can be brought home.

There has never been a greater opportunity for player power to exert itself. The players' moderate statement of Sunday evening, "respectfully requesting" a rethink, was a gem of its kind and leaves them firmly on the moral high ground. With the right kind of leadership —

and, as he did on Sunday, Dean Richards might well occupy more limelight than he normally enjoys — the England players can carve a firm niche for themselves in the consultative process and enhance their claims for greater financial rewards.

Least it be thought that all they are after is money, they would also be in pole position to offer the views of those at the sharp end on law and disciplinary procedures, and on the structure of the game.

It is wrong to imagine that the RFU does not talk to its players. An active working

party exists, from the activity of which the England squad, as individuals, can expect a substantial increase in remuneration this summer.

The union seeks younger blood, both on committees and in advisory capacities, but the players themselves seek to play. The demands of career and family leave them with no time or, for the most part, desire to work on committees; but they do want to be heard. All of them have far greater knowledge of the world of international rugby than most of those who make up the RFU committee and whose con-

cerns are, by definition, more parochial.

In South Africa over this past month, contact between players and administrators will be frigid indeed: a residue of antipathy will exist as long as a particular set of administrators remains. Easby's term of office ends on July 14, as does that of Dudley Wood, the secretary of the RFU who was not part of the decision-making process over Carling but is identified by the players as a barrier to progress.

Easby, though, is due to be followed by Bill Bishop, then by John Richardson, as president, both of whom agreed to the decision. Another, Peter Bromage, is chairman-designate of the new RFU executive committee. These are men now identified by the rank and file of rugby followers throughout the country as responsible for a substantial error of judgment and one which could affect England's prospects in the World Cup, where success enhances the image of the game.

On Friday, Easby suggested that Carling's position as captain had become untenable. What, now, of his own and that of his colleagues?

The administrators of the Rugby Football Union have always acted on the reverse principle. They have clung to things that are impossible or even immoral in a changing social and political world — amateurism, links with apartheid. They have soft-pedalled every issue that comes to them, notably player-violence.

Their abiding principle has always been "Thou Shalt Not Rock The Boat". It is because of this unshakable principle that they have capitulated. They did not realise that stability comes from controlled forward movement.

Hold on, though. It seems that the impossible could happen. The run rises in the west, the Thames flows backwards to its source, the seas stand still, the rain falls upward and the RFU admits it has made a mistake.

Player Power! For the worst type of administrator, this is the worst kind of sporting nightmare. It means that the children have taken over the playground, the lunatics the asylum.

So far, the England players have played with the

Player power proves that the impossible can happen

Simon Barnes believes the RFU has been taught a lesson about teamwork and common sense



Will all sporting administrators please stand up and repeat after me the following words: "We are not masters. We are stewards." Administrators do not own the game: they look after it for the players. Their job is to make sure that it is a decent game.

Nobody is saying that good stewardship is easy and everyone knows that to those with a taste for such things, high office in sport gives opportunities unparalleled in the real world for power without responsibility, but the good steward has a responsibility for the game as it is actually played, and as it will be played. This involves an acceptance that time passes, things change and that the game you played with such love in your distant youth has become unrecognisable.

Sport, more than any other area of life, is afflicted with nostalgia. This is because sport is about youth and we are all fond of recalling our wild days. The sporting administrator should be immune to that. Look after the good things, but do not cling to old things merely because they are old, out of sentimentality for your own faded youth.

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So far, the England players have played with the

canniness of politicians. Their manner of confrontation has been to avoid seeming to confront, their adversarial tactics have been concealed by a cloak of humility, but the meaning is crystal clear: whose game is it anyway? By standing firm, the elite players have shown a fine sense of responsibility to their game and its future, something conspicuously lacking in the administrators in this debate.

It is a turning point for rugby union — and it is for every sport in the world, an almost unprecedented display of off-field teamwork. The RFU has been handed a lesson in the real virtues of its own sport.

It seems that we can celebrate a victory, not for the players, but for common sense. The RFU has got it so colossally wrong, has completely misread the mood, not only of the players, but of the country. The RFU stands self-damned before us; but praise be, it has realised it.

Now, we can get on with the game and watch the players trying to win the World Cup — they fly off to South Africa, remember, in ten days' time, perhaps united as never before as their pursuit of victory heats up.

Resolved to win at all costs? It is not really the case, but certainly, the elite players seek to win at greater cost than ever was paid before and for greater rewards than ever before. That is because the stakes are higher than ever before — and I am not just talking about money.

The game is harder and faster and more intense. Its demands are different. Players have adapted to these higher demands — or they have fallen away, weeded out by the quodden ruthlessness of sport.

No such weeding process exists for administrators, and that is how we got into this mess. Times change, but not the RFU; until now. Is this a death-bed conversion to modernism? A blinding shaft of common sense?

The RFU does not have the monopoly of ideology, or even of sporting old farts — it just seems that way — but, in being big enough to back down, in fact accepting that players are grown-ups with a stake in their own game, it has given an example to the world of good stewardship. I wonder if we will see such a thing again.

Captain's crime of disloyalty warrants harsh punishment

Andrew Longmore contends that the arguments put in Carling's defence do not justify his action



The Rugby Football Union (RFU) may now have lost all credibility in its handling of the Carling affair, but that does not alter the fact that its original decision to sack the captain was inherently right. The argument was lost months ago in the RFU's Canute-like stance against the rising tide of professionalism and the only people who did not realise it were the RFU members themselves. They have long since forfeited the right to be right.

Yet, the RFU did get it right, albeit for only a day or two. Administrative old farts is by no means the preserve of the RFU, and Mike Atherton, for one, would be forgiven for thinking that had he voiced Carling's phrase, off or on the record, in or out of context, the chances of him receiving the sort of support from middle England that Carling has enjoyed would be as dismal as his chances of keeping the captaincy of the England cricket team.

Then Carling has won a lot and Atherton lost a lot, which makes a difference. Even the England football captain might have been relieved of his armband had he similarly offended the members of the strong committee of the Football Association, whose average age would, I suggest, make the 57 members of the RFU seem like Boy Scouts.

Surely, some sense of responsibility to the game wider than merely winning or losing comes with the territory of captaincy, a sense which the lampooning of the game's senior administrators clearly infringes?

A whole framework of irrelevant defence has been built around Carling since the original announcement of his dismissal from the England captaincy by the RFU on Saturday. For a start, the timing is irrelevant. Three days before the World Cup, six

months, two years. It does not matter.

One of rugby's abiding strengths is that, in England at least, it does not have to bow to the professional curse of needing to win. England do not need to win the rugby World Cup in the way that Manchester United need to win the championship. They have no Cantons to pay. That means, praise be, that they can sack their captain when they want to, not when their accountants tell them they can. Now the RFU has forfeited that right, too. The players will now tell it who they want as captain.

Nor was the accuracy of Carling's unflattering description of the RFU committee, whose ostrich-like attitude to the onset of professionalism has fostered the militant tendency within the England team, any more relevant than his extraordinary record of achievement as the England

captain. Administrators are, almost by definition, older than players and therefore open to accusations of fardishness, but that does not excuse the public expression of criticism of them.

Carling's own profuse apology showed as much. Unfortunately, once said, some things cannot easily be unsaid, even by the most successful captain in England's rugby history. On reflection, Carling might have done better not to have retracted his criticism but to have amplified it in the name of honesty. He must have ample ammunition.

Yet none of this really has any bearing on the decision made by the six senior officers of the RFU at an emergency meeting at the East India Club in St James's Square last Friday evening.

What was at issue was Carling's right to hold the highest honour in the sport after he had publicly ridiculed

the very men who asked him to take that honour.

By implication, the criticism, as Dudley Wood, the outgoing secretary of the RFU, said, shows as much about Carling as about the committee. If, on either side, there is a breakdown of the respect which the offering and accepting of the captaincy implies, then it is as important in sport as in politics for the ties to be cut before rugby's chain of command becomes as weak and rusted as it has in football or, to a lesser extent, cricket. Someone has to run the game and it cannot, in the end, be the players.

Carling, as a former Army captain, will appreciate that as well as anyone, even if he does not agree with it.

If he had lost his own respect for the committee — and nobody could blame him for it — he should have resigned his captaincy long ago and said why.

Carling clearly disagrees violently with the transgression of the RFU's stance on amateurism and he has more than earned the right to express his opinion as he — and Rob Andrew — did in the Channel 4 programme which precipitated his downfall, though he has, of course, rightly benefited more than any committee-man from rugby. Had his criticism stopped at facts, figures and opinions, the RFU could have had no quibble, however sore the members might have felt.

Rugby players are not paid employees of the RFU, yet, and therefore have the freedom to speak their mind in the way that a professional footballer, under the terms of his contract, cannot. Personal abuse, however, is a separate matter, and no amount of half-baked justification can change the fact that Carling has betrayed a trust and should have gone.



Atherton: less latitude



Cantons: wages to pay

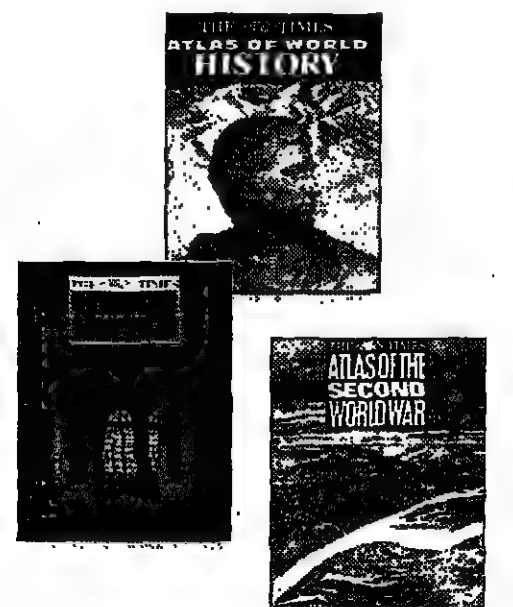


Brian Moore and the players have proved a point

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TOKEN NINE

Eve-Ann Prentice tells how she finally overcame a fear of flying — and went solo for the first time

PETER TREWENOR



The journey from terror to terra firma is over at last — Eve-Ann Prentice after her flight in a single-engine Piper Warrior. "I have conquered the world and the world will never be the same again," she says

On a wing and a prayer

There was a time I couldn't board a plane unless I was drunk or drugged, and preferably both. Even then, the fear of flying was so deep, and enmeshed with so many other psychological irrationalities, that whiskey and tranquillisers could not numb the certainty that the aircraft and all on board were doomed.

It seemed inconceivable that I should find myself, one bright Tuesday afternoon, gazing down from the cockpit of a single-engine Piper Warrior towards a runway 1,200 ft below, knowing that I alone must land the aircraft. This was my first solo flight.

There was a second or two when the old familiar silent scream began to rise, after a little buffer of turbulence rocked the doughty Warrior just as I was levelling out after the climb. I was distracted enough to forget to reduce the power, as I had been taught. But the dictats of self-preservation snapped my mind back to intense concentration on pre-landing checks, monitoring speed, altitude, power, oil and fuel gauges, lowering flaps.

Minutes later, the end of the runway is fixed in the windscreen. Please, please, PLEASE let the landing go better than the ungainly edge-of-disaster attempts of the morning, when the instructor had been at my side giving no hint that he was harbouring dark thoughts of sending me aloft alone.

Now is the the moment to ease back on the control column, to look ahead (it is so tempting to become transfixed with the runway speeding beneath you), to cut the power, to let her float just above the ground, then a touch more back pressure on the control column and the miracle has happened. I am taxiing down the runway but my spirit is in heaven. I have conquered the world and the world will never be the same again.

The journey from terror to terra firma came via years of hypnosis, reading about the physics of flight, long-haul journeys, wacky self-help tapes, and the exceptional patience of a veteran flying instructor called Joe. As with many phobias, my fear of flying fed on other muddled uncertainties lurking near the subconscious, and the miracle of the solo was not to take control of the aircraft, but to master the mind-monsters which feed on self-doubt.

With hindsight, the seeds of the phobia were planted by the nuns at a convent school in North Wales when I was 12-years-old. Two of them drove me to an airstrip to meet my father, a private pilot, who had hired a plane to fly me home for the summer holiday. It was a rare treat and I was looking forward to the flight, until the nuns started praying en route, fervently entreating the Almighty to save me from the fires of hell should the plane crash.

This first inkling that it was even possible for anything to go wrong found deeper root when the aircraft engine spluttered to a stop a couple of thousand feet over the Midlands. My father had not heeding it necessary to tell me he was doing this intentionally, running one of the two fuel tanks dry to make the fuel last longer. Ever after, I was convinced that the normal sound of aircraft engines cutting back after climbing or coming in to land, presaged an imminent plunge into oblivion.

From 1965 until 1977, I managed to avoid almost all contact with aeroplanes by travelling by rail,

road or boat. By the end of the 1970s, though, I was hankering to see beyond the confines of Europe and yearned to be a foreign correspondent — a mile difficult for an aerophobe.

So began the years of trying to banish the fear bred of ignorance, learning about the principles of flight, how it is not magic but aerodynamics which cause take-off, a partial vacuum is created by the air flowing over the top of the wings and this acts to pull them up. Reach 65 knots (just over 70 mph) in a Warrior, and the aircraft is dancing on tip-toe, yearning for you to let her soar skywards.

The Oxford Air Training School at Kidlington, just outside the city, is famous for teaching airline pilots from all over the world, many of whom have passed through the tutelage of Joe, a former RAF

navigator, father of four and, at 1.40pm on that sunny Tuesday, the person who uttered a few words which made me feel I had been thumped in the solar plexus: "Now I am getting out and you are going to do a circuit by yourself." It was not possible, just not possible, that he had said this.

Only an hour before I could not fly straight, wandered all over the place, and had lurched into two landings which I felt only Joe had rescued from catastrophe.

Now, puzzling little deviations from the norm began to make sense; the instructor had been plotting this awful moment all day. Before the last circuit, he had refuelled, even though I knew, because I had checked, there was at least as much fuel in the tanks as there had been oftentimes before when setting out. He also stopped



the Warrior while taxiing back for the last time, checking the engine as if he had heard a misfire. But there was no time to dwell on the awful sight of Joe disappearing from the plane. There was no going back and, if I killed myself in the

attempt, I had warned him: "You must be joking!"

You would think that the instructor would feel as nervous as the pupil at this time, but apparently not so. "I am always quietly confident," said Joe. "I have never had anyone refuse to go. Some people are surprised because they do not think they have made the progress they have and some people think they should be going when they are not ready. The thing is, they wouldn't be sent if they weren't ready. It's not a non-event but the glamour is for the student, not the instructor."

Caroline Oakes is another Oxford instructor. Looking something like a younger Virginia Bottomley, she delights in windy weather and chirpily proclaims "This is what we call sperry" when the aircraft is tossed upon cloudy seas. "You can

be a little bit nervous when students do their first solo," she said. "The younger instructors go to the control tower to watch through binoculars, the older ones go and read a newspaper."

"I did have one student who said he couldn't go, but it turned out that he wanted to go to the loo! The idea is that the solo comes as a complete surprise. It's the shock that keeps them quiet."

Most student commercial pilots have hundreds, if not thousands of flying hours yet all become misty-eyed at the memory of their own first solos.

Some students are sent alone after just nine or ten hours' flying, most after around 15 hours, while I was a tardy 20 hours. One of the student airline pilots assured me he had taken 25 hours to go solo.

There are at least another 25

hours to go the the PPL, during which I will be allowed out on an ever-lengthening leash to learn navigation and cross country flying.

Learning to fly at first feels like trying to cycle, drive and swim all at the same time, while holding unreal conversations on a complicated radio set you feel you are constantly returning, with people called "Oxford Ground", "Oxford Tower" and "Oxford Approach". "Golf Bravo Golf Yankee Golf, request radio check and taxi for dual circuits, information Delta received," for instance, seems pretty meaningless at first.

It will be magic when all this, and the reassuringly thorough checks — on the ground and in the air — begin to be second nature and you start to sense the aircraft come alive in your hands instead of feeling you are grappling with too many baffling tasks simultaneously. Swimming through the air currents, coaxing the aircraft to climb or descend at a precise speed, to bank at a given angle, to settle gently on the runway after a good approach. All this I concentrated on as I taxied to the runway, radioed for permission to take-off and then, seconds later gazed back at the airfield from 500 ft as I climbed away.

But one of the biggest surprises of the solo was that Joe had more faith in me than I had in myself. A faith that the nuns from North Wales had begun to sap on that journey to the airstrip all those years ago.

Joe presents his soloists with the poem, *Flying Crooked*, by Robert Graves:

*The butterfly, a cabbage white
(His honest idiocy of flight)
Will never now, it is too late
Master the art of flying straight.
Yet has — who knows so
well as I?
A just sense of how not to fly.
He lurches here and here
by guess
And God and hope
and hopelessness.
Even the acrobatic swift.
Has not his flying crooked gift.*

HOW TO LEARN

- To gain the private pilot's licence you must complete at least 43 hours of flying and pass practical and theoretical exams. However, the average time taken is 45 hours.
- Lessons cost £95 an hour, plus VAT, at the Oxford Air Training School, Kidlington (01865 844 261). Fees vary from school to school. Information could be obtained from the Airline Owners' and Pilots' Association, Department 200, 50A Cambridge Street, London, SW1B 4QQ (enclose SAE); (0171-834 5631). You must take a medical before beginning to learn.
- There are 26,296 holders of the PPL (not including helicopters and microlites) in the UK. Of these, only 1,602 are women. About 3300 people gain a PPL each year. Some people drop out of flying lessons after a few hours because they discover they do not like it or are frightened of going solo.
- Of those who take a full course, 1 or 2 per cent fail. After qualifying, pilots can hire single-engine aircraft from about £60 an hour.



Joe Sharp, the veteran flying instructor who decided Eve-Ann was ready to go solo, left, and Bruce Lutton, the Chief Flying Instructor at Oxford Air Training School



Taking the first steps to the skies — students at the Oxford Air Training School, Kidlington, learn how to read a chart, and try out the flight simulator



هكذا في الأصل

LAW

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Fighting from the front

Frances Gibb
meets Martin
Mears, the
much-vilified
rebel standing
for Law Society
president

Martin Mears, who has caused the biggest upset to the Law Society for 40 years, arouses strong emotions. Vilified as a "bigot" with "deeply repugnant" views among those close to Law Society circles, he is equally admired among the rank and file. In the short time since arriving on the Law Society council, winning 64 per cent of the vote and kicking out the sitting candidate, he has become a thorn in the side of the society's council and headquarters staff: an anti-establishment figure, he accuses the society of "arrogance, extravagance and ineptitude" coupled with an attitude of "defeatism".

Mr Mears is standing for the post of president. His candidacy has forced the first contested election in four decades and a ballot of all 70,000 solicitors in England and Wales. At a time when many members are struggling financially, Mr Mears has clearly struck a chord. "The income of individual practitioners has fallen dramatically and people are looking to the council for leadership," he says. His stand for president — and that of his running mate for vice-president, Robert Sayer — was greeted with hostility, he says. Senior council members suggested he was arrogant. Moves such as a motion to have a report by the honorary auditor of the council investigated led to his "being publicly insulted".

Mr Mears, 57, senior partner in a six-partner firm in Norfolk, is in his own words a right-winger — "deeply reactionary", as he once put it. He quickly ruffled Law Society feathers for open hostility to the anti-discrimination measures being devised for the profession and has since been labelled both racist and sexist. He denies the charge. "I am absolutely opposed to arbitrary discrimination against anyone — women, ethnic or homosexuals," he says. "But I am not going to be bullied into supporting posturing anti-discrimination codes that even their supporters admit privately are unenforceable and unworkable."

Brickbats aside, Mr Mears clearly articulates what many



The candidacy of Martin Mears for president of the Law Society has forced the first contested election in 40 years

solicitors think. He pinpoints three concerns which the society with its atmosphere of "defeatism, complacency and confusion of activity with achievement" has failed to tackle. First, the problem of entry to the profession. There are about 6,000 students emerging from the one-year vocational legal practice course to chase 3,500 trainee places. "I would find ways of limiting entry to the profession — one way might be to say a person cannot have a place on

system of regular monitoring of bureau files to see if it is tackling complaints properly and a system of tribunals to act as an appeal path. Without reform, "sooner or later the bureau will be abolished by the Government and we will have a statutory complaints system which will cost the profession far more."

Already his rivals, Henry Hodge and Eileen Pembroke, have issued proposals on some of the same issues — "death-bed conversions", as Mr

profession. He points out that he has written articles denouncing right-wing MPs advocating flogging and capital punishment. He has praised Judge Stephen Tugendhat as a humane prison reformer and argues that he is neither sexist nor racist: he is in favour of women being admitted to his club, the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club, on the grounds that this is what "the majority want" rather than a burning passion that women should have equal admission rights.

"Being against the anti-discrimination measures is a very different thing from being racist or homophobic. I will not support the posturing of politically correct measures which are unenforceable — but if you don't support them you are vilified."

Twice-married, Mr Mears lives in Beccles, Suffolk, with his wife, a solicitor with a Norwich firm. He has seven children, aged between five and 26. His father was a quantity surveyor.

Mr Mears went to grammar school in Cardiff, then to Wadham College, Oxford, to read law. He spent his early years in a firm in the West End before being attracted to a post in Norfolk ("the salary seemed very large"), where in 1970 he founded his own firm, now, Mears Hobbs & Durrant. It has four offices with 30 staff (including 20 fee-earners and

It is interesting what they don't say. They don't call me a fool, or say that I lack judgment

the course unless he or she already has a training contract with a firm."

He also wants to devise ways of cutting the cost of indemnity insurance. "It is not my task to come up with detailed proposals on all these things. It is to point out what is wrong and say to the 700-member bureaucracy, you are adept at circulating papers, come up with some ideas on this or that." Third, he cites the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, which has "the confidence of neither profession or public". He says it needs bringing under the Law Society's arm: a

Mears says it. "They are all rooters-out of bureaucracy now. Mr Hodge talks of cutting the cost of the society. In the 11 years since he has been on the council, the costs have risen from £5 million to £48 million and the staff from 259 to 700."

However, it is not so much on these policies that Mr Mears both attracts or repels as on race and sex. He is portrayed as the "crudely anti-Left stereotype," he says, and aims, in the few weeks before the election, to dispel the image that he is a "purple-faced buffoon" unfit to lead the

The mistrial of the century?

The United States of America continues its obsession with the trial of O.J. Simpson, who has pleaded "one hundred per cent not guilty" to the murder of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald L. Goldman.

When Marcia Clark, lead prosecutor, entered the Los Angeles courtroom last month with a new hairstyle, spectators applauded and her hairdresser received 30 requests for media interviews. The power dressing of the lead defence counsel was acknowledged by a cartoon in *The New Yorker* in which a middle-aged man contemplating the purchase of a new suit asks his wife: "Is it too Johnnie Cochran?" High on the bestseller list is O.J. Simpson's book, *I Want to Tell You: My Response to Your Letters, Your Messages, Your Questions* ("I'd jump in front of a bullet for Nicole... I'm never again going to hear [my children] say the words 'Mommy, Mommy'... I think about God a lot now").

There is a real danger, however, that the production of further episodes of this magnificent entertainment may be endangered by the dissatisfaction of one important group: the jury. Seven jurors have already been removed from the trial for a variety of reasons, leaving 12 jurors and five alternates. Last week, Judge Lance Ito of the Los Angeles Superior Court released a female juror who had tearfully complained: "I can't take it any more." If the number of jurors drops below 12, the trial could continue only with the consent of both sides.

Thirteen members of the jury pool revolted at the end of last month in protest at the replacement of three deputy sheriffs who had been responsible for guarding the jury. Judge Ito reassigned the deputies after a dismissed juror complained that some white members of the panel had received preferential treatment.

The O.J. Simpson 13 refused to come to court until Judge Ito agreed to hear their concerns. The majority of them attended the meeting wearing black or dark-coloured clothing in protest. The jury consultant to the defence, Jo-Ellen Dimitris, was quoted by the Associated Press as commenting that the jury had become "all of a sudden very empowered".

The balance between the rights and the duties of jurors is a difficult and sensitive subject. There are cases in which courts have taken a harsh view of jurors who allow extraneous matters to interfere with their responsibility to attend to the case at hand. In 1803, an American court decided that three jurors were in contempt of court for escaping out of the jury room through a window. At

Lewes Assizes in 1894, a member of a jury "was seized with sickness and rushed out of court before he could be stopped", whereupon the unsympathetic Mr Justice Cave fined him £20 for leaving the jury box without permission. A leading textbook, *Borrie and Lowe's Law of Contempt*, refers to a 1979 case in which a man was fined £50 for wearing a horror mask as he was about to be sworn in on a jury at Croydon Crown Court.

Though it is the responsibility of the juror to focus on trying the case fairly on the evidence, it is hardly surprising that members of the O.J. Simpson jury are becoming irritable and assertive of their rights. They have been sequestered for months on end in hotel rooms to prevent contamination by prejudicial publicity, monitored by guards 24 hours a day and repeatedly told not to discuss the trial — the only thing they have in common and the focus of their lives. This is an unfair trial of the jurors, whatever its impact on O.J. Simpson. As well as counsel for the prosecution and counsel for the defence, lawyers represent many others present in the court or concerned about the outcome, including the victims' families, the media and many of the witnesses.

Professor Stephen Gillers of New York University Law School has sensibly suggested that in such trying circumstances "the jury should have a constitutional right to counsel" to represent their interests before the court. There should be "no sequestration without representation". Jurors, he contends, are entitled to protection of their right to a speedy trial, the right to date, the right to a balanced diet, the right to be kept informed and the right to be free from intrusive oversight.

In a normal trial, the judge looks after the interests of the jury. During an Old Bailey trial in December 1989, when the jury needed to spend a second night in a hotel considering its verdict, the judge wisely responded to the concern of one juror about his alibi. The judge ordered that the jury's coach should, on its way to the hotel, be diverted to the juror's flat so that he could feed the dog and take it for a walk. An Old Bailey official recalled that, some years earlier, a policeman was sent to a juror's house to feed her goldfish.

When a jury is sequestered for months on end, its members require especially sensitive handling and their interests need independent protection. Judge Ito would be well advised to take very seriously the rights of the jurors in order to reduce the chances of the case of O.J. Simpson becoming the mistrial of the century. ● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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New Bar challenge

NOT TO be outdone by the Law Society, the 2,000-member Criminal Bar Association is also facing its own contested elections for the first time in ten years.

Anne Rafferty, QC, recorder and member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in 1993, is vice-chairman, and in previous years would have been elected unopposed, making her the first woman chair of the CBA.

She is now being challenged by Ronald Thwaites, QC, a well-known barrister, who is campaigning on a tough trade-union platform. Rock Tansey, a CBA committee member, is also standing. Thwaites wants to help the regional Bar (he is from the North East), which is not represented, he says, by the CBA, and to fight against the new powers judges have to "fast-track" cases, set timetables and make penalty-costs orders if barristers are thought to have wasted time.

He says the Bar should not "succumb to the will of judges in any way that could compromise barristers, particularly in their conduct of difficult, unpopular cases."

IN THE OUTS



Mohammed Ullah, left, and Lord Hoffmann in Brick Lane

East Enders

JUDGES and QCs turned out in force for an unprecedented opening of a new set of chambers — Tower Hamlets Barristers' Chambers in Brick Lane. The set has been brought together by Mohammed Ullah, who says the site means they do not have to pay huge rents for Inns of Court premises. The common law set, to be run by a management committee, has four

tenants so far. They will be concentrating on immigration, housing and crime. The opening ceremony was carried out by Lord Hoffmann, the law lord, who described it as a "remarkable event in the history of the English Bar". One of the new set, Ali Khan, told assembled guests, who enjoyed a Bangladeshi meal, that Brick Lane was within reach of the law courts, the seat of justice. However, for many living

there, justice remained "too far in terms of accessibility and affordability", he said.

Justice lecture

GILBERT Guillaume, a judge at the International Court of Justice, is delivering the Wilberforce lecture this Thursday at 6pm in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn. His speech will cover the Canadian and European Union fishing dispute, the War Crimes Tribunals on Bosnia and Rwanda and the new dispute-settlement procedure under Gatt. Entry is free.

Added spice

DIBB Lupton Broomhead caused a stir last week with its high-profile wraparound recruitment advert attached to *The Lawyer* magazine.

Was it placed to coincide with the announcement of the merger of rival regional firms Simpson Curtis and Pinsent & Co? Nigel Knowles, a Dibb's partner, says: "We knew when we went for May 2 that it would appear at an interesting time for firms other than our own. You have to inject a little spice into life." It certainly did. *The Lawyer*'s lead story that week was "Partners go in Dibb's blood-letting".

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This major City firm requires a high calibre solicitor with up to three years relevant post-qualification experience to join their banking team. The successful applicant is likely to have a City background and the skills to work in a demanding environment with minimal supervision. The work is varied and there are excellent prospects.

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Chancery Division

Law Report May 9 1995

Chancery Division

Bankruptcy issue estoppel not final

Onus on former partner to prove propriety

Eberhardt & Co Ltd v Mair

Before Mr Justice Evans-Lombe

[Judgment May 2]

Although, in the course of bankruptcy proceedings, an issue estoppel was created by the dismissal of a debtor's application to set aside a statutory demand in respect of which a district judge had found no substantial grounds on which the debt could be disputed, a bankruptcy court on the full hearing of the petition could go behind any issue estoppel resulting from such an order and was not, therefore, finally bound by it.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by the petitioning creditor, Eberhardt & Co Ltd, against an order of District Judge Cawood made on March 14, 1995 whereby the bankruptcy petition against the respondent debtor, Robert Mair, was stood over for the purpose of a later hearing which, it was anticipated, would last a full day.

Miss Raquel Agnello for the petitioning creditor: Mr Paul McCormick for the respondent debtor.

MR JUSTICE EVANS-LOMBE said that on the directions of the district judge the debtor filed a notice of opposition on March 22 which read, inter alia: "(1) I am not justly and truly indebted to the petitioner for the sum claimed in the bankruptcy petition or any sum. If any such sum is due and owing (which is not admitted) the liability is that of a limited company, Bedhampton Glass Ltd and/or one Brian Mair, who is not liable to pay the sum referred to in the bankruptcy petition."

The petitioning creditor appealed against the order of District Judge Cawood on the following grounds: "The district judge erred in refusing to make a bankruptcy order on March 14, 1995 in that on the evidence before the court there were no grounds upon which the district judge should have refused to make a bankruptcy order. In particular:

"(a) there were no grounds of opposition raised either in any notice of opposition which should have been filed pursuant to rule 6.2 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1928) or in any evidence given by way of submissions which would have entitled the district judge to refuse in all the circumstances to make the bankruptcy order sought;

"(b) the only grounds of opposition which were raised were identical to those grounds of opposition raised by the respondent on August 10, 1993 on the respondent's application to set aside the statutory demand dated March 12, 1993 when District Judge Hurley dismissed the respondent's application after a full hearing;

"(c) the only grounds of opposition raised by the respondent were identical to those raised by the respondent on December 2, 1993 when the respondent sought a review of the order of District Judge Hurley's dismissal of his application to set aside the statutory demand. The said application for review was dismissed by District Judge Bailey-Cox on December 2, 1993.

"The district judge erred in granting an adjournment to the respondent and giving directions on the hearing of the petition in the circumstances in that the matters raised by the respondent had already been adjudicated upon by the court on two previous occasions and in those circumstances the respondent is not entitled to seek further hearing in relation to matters which have already been adjudicated by the court."

His Lordship said that the facts were that in June 1991 the petitioner supplied signs to Ashby's Signs Bar Ltd, a company which was being conducted by the debtor, apparently in association with a Mr Wilson. The order for the signs was placed by Mr Wilson.

It seemed that the premises were being refurbished by a building company of which the debtor and Mr Wilson were directors and shareholders. That company had ceased to trade.

The petitioner sought payment of its account from the debtor who, in 1991 and 1992, made three payments on account totalling some £600 leaving a balance outstanding of £2,200.03.

Upon further payment not being forthcoming the petitioner served a statutory demand for that amount on the debtor on March 12, 1993. On April 6, the debtor applied under rule 6.4 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 to set aside the statutory demand.

It was the debtor's case that he was not trading in any sort of partnership with Mr Wilson, that Mr Wilson did not have his authority to place an order for signs with the petitioner and that that order had either been placed on behalf of the company of which

he and Mr Wilson were directors and which was concerned with the refurbishment of the wine bar or was made by Mr Wilson personally.

It was the petitioner's submission that the debtor's substantive defence to the petition arose under paragraph 1 of the notice of opposition.

As to paragraph 1 the petitioner submitted that whether or not the debtor had raised a bona fide dispute as to the petitioner's claim against him it had been decided against the debtor in the course of his application to set aside the statutory demand.

That decision not having been reversed on review and there being no effective appeal from it, it could not be reopened at the hearing of the petition. No further evidence on the central issue of liability was before District Judge Cawood on March 14, 1995 which was not before District Judge Hurley of August 20, 1993.

Even if it was possible to obtain further material, such as evidence from Mr Wilson, that should have been put before the court on a further application to review the order of District Judge Hurley and not on the hearing of the petition.

In effect the petitioner was contending that an issue estoppel bound the debtor on the central issue of liability for the petitioning debt, accordingly it was contended that District Judge Cawood should not have adjourned the petition but should have made a bankruptcy order.

It was submitted on behalf of the respondent that on March 14 the district judge had a discretion whether or not to make the bankruptcy order. In any event it would have been unjust to make a bankruptcy order on March 14 because the debtor was not anticipating a final hearing of the petition on that day. If he had done so he would have made efforts to obtain further relevant evidence including attempting to subpoena Mr Wilson.

Having cited sections 267, 268 and 271 of the Insolvency Act 1986 his Lordship referred to sections 1 and 3 of the Insolvency Rules 1986. Rule 6.5(3) provided that "on the hearing of the application the court shall consider the evidence then available to it, and may either summarily determine the application or adjourn it, giving such directions as it thinks appropriate". It was under those provisions that District Judge Hurley dismissed the debtor's application to set aside the statutory demand.

Rule 6.5(4) set out the circumstances in which the court might grant an application to set aside a statutory demand. The material provision provided that the court could grant the application if "the debt is disputed on grounds which appear to the court to be substantial".

It seemed that subject to the special powers of the bankruptcy court on the material before the court on March 14 the debtor was bound by an issue estoppel arising from the decision of District Judge Hurley on August 20, 1993 that he was not satisfied that the petitioner's claim was disputed on grounds which appeared to be substantial.

No direct authority on the point had been cited to his Lordship but it seemed that a precisely similar issue arose when a petitioning creditor was required to establish the truth of the statement in the petition that the debtor was liable for the petitioning debt.

It was clearly established in companies' winding-up cases that the remedy of winding up was not available where the debt upon which the petition was based was bona fide disputed. The issue should be the same where the petition was for a bankruptcy order.

None the less as rule 6.25(1) made it plain, the making of a bankruptcy order was a matter of discretion. It had long been established that the bankruptcy court had a power and indeed a duty to ensure that a bankruptcy was not instituted in circumstances which amounted to an injustice and had exercised a power to enquire into the material before him exercised his discretion to adjourn the petition wrongly since he did not appear to have had any material before him which justified his going behind the conclusion of District Judge Hurley on August 20, 1993 nor any indication that such evidence might be available in the future.

However, it did seem that the debtor and those representing him were not anticipating a full hearing of the petition and that there was reasonable cause for their taking such a view and that they were contemplating obtaining further evidence for the hearing of the petition.

For those reasons his Lordship could not take the view that the district judge had exercised his discretion so unreasonably as to justify interference in his decision. It seemed that the bankruptcy court in an appropriate case would go behind any issue estoppel resulting from a judgment in the proceedings themselves. It followed that an issue estoppel could be finally binding on a court of bankruptcy when that court came to consider whether to make a bankruptcy order.

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Duty to allow evidence

Regina v Armstrong

Where a defendant wished the prosecution to read part of a witness statement which had been shown to a prosecution witness had made a statement entirely consistent with his alibi notice, the judge erred in according to the prosecution's submission that it was not obliged to do so.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Mr Justice Hadden and Mr Justice Mitchell) held on February 24 when dismissing the appeal of Derek Brian Armstrong against his conviction on March 12, 1993 at Newcastle Crown Court (Judge MacMurray, QC and a jury) of offences of robbery and possession of a firearm.

The provision of a lift at a mainstream primary school to enable a disabled pupil to use the science room and library on the first floor could not be regarded as a provision for an educational purpose in the context of the local authority's duties of special educational needs.

Mr Justice Owen so held in the Queen's Bench Division on April 26 when dismissing an application by the mother of a disabled girl,

now aged 10, for judicial review of the failure of the London Borough of Lambeth to provide a lift at her daughter's school.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the council was under no statutory obligation to install a lift. If the provision of a lift was necessary, it was necessary to assist the girl's mobility and not as a special educational need.

However, his Lordship referred the matter back to the council for re-assessment of the educational and non-educational needs of the pupil.

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TODAY: Greg Jones on how parents can help to prepare their 11-year-olds for the science tests

Young scientists put on their mettle

The prospect of national science tests for 11-year-olds probably causes parents more worry than their children. The subject is often regarded as "difficult" and, traditionally, has been seen as something to be formally tested at secondary rather than primary school.

But, thanks to the national curriculum, science is now taught routinely in the primary sector. Parents can play an important part in ensuring that pupils perform to the best of their ability in next week's tests once they understand what is involved. The examiners do not help matters by giving unnecessarily complicated titles to the three subject areas which make up science — biology, chemistry and physics.

How can you help to prepare your child for the tests?

Science is a particularly tricky subject to revise for, because any area of the curriculum can crop up in the tests.

However, certain topics are more easily tested than others. With luck, teachers will have started to refresh pupils' memories about some areas they have covered in the dim and distant past.

I have tried to identify topics that are worth looking over again with children. Of course, there is no guarantee that all will crop up in the test itself.

Biology (life and living processes)

Children should know:

a) The position of the major parts of a human being; for example, the



heart, lungs, gullet, stomach, liver, pancreas and intestine. Also the major parts of the skeleton, such as the skull.

b) The major parts of a flowering plant; for example, the leaves, shoot, root, petals, sepals, stamens (male part) and carpel (female part); and the conditions required for germination of seeds: warmth, oxygen, moisture and light.

c) The effect of exercise on the body: an increased heart rate, increased breathing rate and sweating.

d) Characteristics of living things, such as reproduction, growth, breathing, movement, sensitivity, excretion and feeding (what forms a balanced diet for humans, for example protein, fat, vitamins, roughage, minerals and water).

e) Simple food chains: remember that in linking one organism that feeds on another, the arrow should point in the direction of the energy flow. Grass → Rabbit → Fox. Pupils should understand terms such as herbivore (plant-eater), carnivore (meat-eater), producer (green plants) and decomposer (fungi and bacteria).

Chemistry (materials and their properties)

Children should know about:

a) Grouping materials. For example, they should be able to group materials according to such things as strength, flexibility, hardness, how well they allow electricity to move through them, or whether or not they are attracted to a magnet.

b) Dangers associated with certain materials such as bleach or hot oil.

c) The water cycle. For instance, where rain comes from (evaporation from the sea), why it rains (cooling produces condensation) and how fresh water is recycled. Remember the three states: gas, liquid and solid. For example for water: steam, liquid and ice. Understand the terms condensation, evaporation, freezing and melting.

d) Separating mixtures. For example, how to purify rock salt by filtration and evaporation.

e) Combustion of simple elements and the role of oxygen in the burning.

f) Weathering: how the weather can, for example, erode buildings by frost or acid rain.

Physics (physical processes)

Children should know about:

a) Fuels. For example, some of the fuels used in the home, where they come from. The products of burning oil, natural gas etc are water and carbon dioxide. Differences between non-renewable resources, such as oil, and renewable, such as wind power.

b) Forces and motion. How forces affect the movement of objects and their direction. The effects of friction, for example air resistance.

c) Light. For example, sources such as Sun and Moon. Know that light can be reflected from a surface. Light travels more quickly than sound (example: the smoke from a starter's gun is seen before the bang is heard). Know the seven colours of the spectrum (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet).

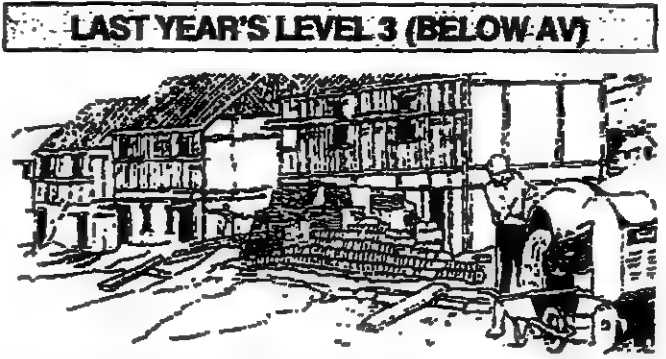
d) The Earth and the Solar System. The order of the planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto).

e) Circuits. Know the symbols used to represent simple parts used in diagrams (bulb, cell, push switch, motor, buzzer). For circuit diagrams, ruled lines should be used and symbols drawn neatly. Know that increasing the voltage increases the brightness of a bulb or the strength of an electromagnet.

● The author is head of science, The Blue Coat School, Edgbaston, Birmingham.



Pupils at Halstead School, Woking, investigate the snail world



Copper, steel and wood are used by builders. Tick the box which shows why builders use each material.

a) Electric wires are made from copper because copper

... is shiny ☐

... is not magnetic ☐

... is a conductor ☐

b) Buildings are made with steel because steel

... is a conductor ☐

... is rigid ☐

... rusts ☐

c) Doors are made from wood because wood

... splinters ☐

... is absorbent ☐

... is easily shaped ☐

d) Electric wires are covered with plastic because plastic

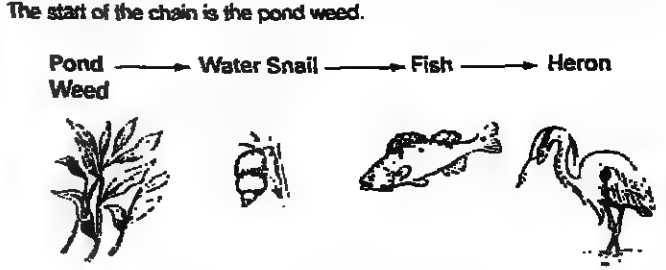
... is not magnetic ☐

... is not a conductor ☐

... is easily melted ☐

LEVEL 4 (AVERAGE)

The food chain below shows creatures which feed on other living things in the pond. The start of the chain is the pond weed.



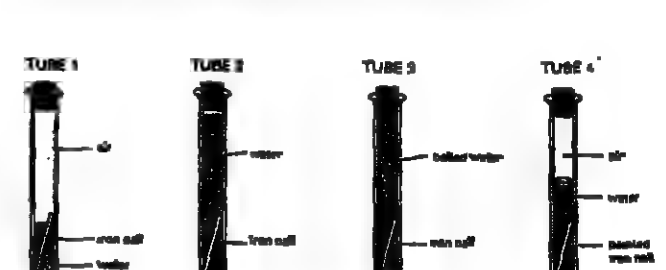
Explain the steps in this food chain in your own words.

Name ONE living thing in this food chain which is the producer.

Draw or write a food chain of your own. Include at least THREE steps in the chain.

LEVEL 5 (ABOVE AVERAGE)

Some children were investigating ways of stopping iron rusting. They set up some plastic tubes as shown in the drawing below.



a) The nail in Tube 1 rusted a lot. The nail in Tube 2 rusted much less. Explain this difference.

b) The nail in Tube 3 only rusted a bit. Explain why the boiled water helped to stop rust.

c) The nail in Tube 4 did not rust. Explain why the paint stopped the nail from rusting.

John O'Leary on the weak spots exposed by the pilot test last year

Next week's science papers for 11-year-olds represent the biggest departure in the latest round of tests. There was little assessment in the subject at this age on which to model the tests, and they have had their critics at the pilot stage.

Preparatory schools involved in the pilot were less

Tricky circuit

happy with the science tests than with mathematics or science. Robin Peverett, the education director of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, says: "Some of the questions could have been answered by a pupil with broad general knowledge without any science teaching at all."

Overall, however, 70 per

cent of teachers said their pupils found the tests interesting and achieved the levels their schools expected. Boys did better in science while girls did slightly better in mathematics and English.

"The biggest problem many children faced was their ignorance of scientific terms. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has tried to use more straightforward language in this year's questions, but it will be worth going over words that have a particular meaning in a scientific context."

Average scores in the physical processes section were lower than for biology or chemistry. A question on circuits, using standard representations of a circuit, defeated many children; those on forces also caused problems, especially one dealing with air resistance, as did questions on the movement of the Earth and the Moon. The best performance came in the biology section. Questions on the water cycle and the functions of the heart attracted consistently good answers.

Some detailed changes have been made to this year's tests after the experience of the pilot run, but the pattern of assessment has not changed. The chief differences will be in the assessment of 11-year-olds who are not thought capable of reaching level 3. They will still be assessed on classroom tasks, rather than formal tests, but the time involved will be shorter and the system will be more flexible.

Very few schools are expected to enter any pupils for the extension paper: only three of the 325 schools involved in the formal pilot did so last year. Even in the prep schools, where it is more likely that some pupils will be following the accelerated courses needed to have covered the necessary ground, only 4 per cent reached level 6.

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Appetite for new issues is on its way back

Trend-spotters say that there are, at last, signs of revival in the new issues market, with a number of companies planning to seek stock market quotations this summer and autumn as market conditions improve and corporate activity returns to the fore.

The recent revival in the City's taste for new issues is prompting hopes of interest from institutions and private investors. Returns on cash are still limited and the stock market has seen a partial recovery, with the FT-SE 100 index ending last week at its highest for nearly nine months.

Twenty-five new domestic issues joined the London Stock Exchange Official List last month. This was the largest monthly figure for 1995 and

made 68 so far this year, against the record figure of 92 new issues in the first four months of 1994. Total proceeds for 1995 are £14 billion.

However, conditions for new issues are still difficult and most investors have not forgotten 1994 flops such as Aeroflot, Harlequin and McDonnell Information Systems. The ones that went wrong have tended to stick in the mind better than the more numerous successful flops.

Smaller companies may have outperformed the market, but there is still the odd profit warning to keep potential investors' feet on the ground. Companies seeking to float have had to trim expectations, and pricing is often out to more realistic levels to attract sufficient institutional

interest. General Cable and Albright & Wilson are two recent examples in which the initial offer price was cut.

Neil Austin, head of new issues with KPMG Corporate Finance, said that new issues will succeed only if seen to be floating for the right reasons and at the right price. "There is a normal level of demand for companies that need cash for growth. The more dubious companies seeking to float on the back of a general wave of interest have gone away, though there is still evidence of a herd instinct among some fund managers when deciding which new issues to invest in," he said.

Many companies and their institutional backers have opted for trade sales instead of flotation, even though floats tend to offer better exit prices.

The trade sale route has been prompted by the experience of companies that spent much time and money preparing a float only to have it called off at the last moment because of poor market conditions or unfavourable sentiment towards new issues.

Mr Austin said the Alternative Investment Market for growing companies, to be launched on June 19, is a good destination for smaller fry, but will probably attract some that should not be on a public market. "One can only hope that the good ones far outweigh the bad," he said.

The Stock Exchange is optimistic that AIM will provide an important second market. Last week, Michael Lawrence, its chief executive, estimated that Britain has 7,000 companies

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Furniture and carpet sales taking heart

EXISTING homeowners, rather than first-time buyers, are fuelling the dramatic turnaround in the fortunes of furniture and carpet stores, which saw sales fall 13 per cent in the worst years of the recession. Consumer spending on furniture has risen by more than 17 per cent in the past two years while carpet specialists clocked up sales worth £1.8 billion in 1994 according to a new report on *Furniture and Carpet Retailers*, published by Verdict Research today.

The report, which notes that demand from first-time buyers remains weak, says that MFI maintains its position as the market leader, with Allied Carpets showing great improvements since the merger of Carpetland and Allied. Sir Philip Harris, who founded Carpetright in 1988 and who last year reported operating profits of £13.5 million, had opened 183 stores by the end of April with a further 30 planned during the course of the next year.

German bourse talks

THE three largest German bourses, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Munich, are holding talks on future co-operation, a spokesman for the Frankfurt bourse said. Such a move could produce a common registration of securities, or common clearing and settlement. Although it was unclear whether the intended co-operation was the first step toward a merger, there has been widespread speculation about the future development of the bourses. Questions have been raised about the role of the seven regional bourses, which handle some 70 per cent of German exchange turnover.

Success for small firms

AN unaccustomed picture of a small business sector enjoying economic recovery and looking forward to expansion emerges from a survey of 5,000 owner-managed businesses from Casson Beckman, the accountant. Improved confidence and clear signs of recovery, particularly rising sales, were widespread. In all, 96 per cent of respondents, with turnover of £1 million to £50 million, do not consider contraction or retrenchment would be a threat within the next three years. Recovery has been boosted mainly by export sales, led by the service sector.

Funds turn cool on US

THE number of fund managers turning bearish on US equities has more than doubled in the past month, according to Smith New Court's May Gallup survey. The balance of managers from 86 institutions looking after funds totalling £925 billion who said that they were looking to reduce their exposure to the US has jumped to 30 per cent, from 14 per cent in April. Back in the UK, some 29 per cent of managers are preparing to increase their exposure to equities, but only 8 per cent said that they would add to their holdings in gilts.

Portugal privatises

PORTUGAL has issued the prospectus for the partial privatisation of the country's state-owned telecoms provider, a shares issue with a value of at least £520 million. Advising the sale as global co-ordinator is SG Warburg, along with Merrill Lynch, UBS and Banco Esat. The deal will be Portugal's biggest privatisation yet and will involve the sale of up to 26 per cent of the total share capital. As much as half of the shares on offer are being targeted at institutional investors around the world, with an SEC-registered offer in the US.

Independent watchdog for auditors urged

By ROBERT MILLER

COMPANY auditors should be policed by an independent watchdog to counter mounting public concern that the profession has too many conflicting interests for it to continue with the present system of self-regulation.

The controversial call comes from Ernst & Young, one of the "big six" UK accountancy firms, which today will submit a written response to the Auditing Practices Board's (APB) discussion paper, *The Audit Agenda*.

The firm says the new regulator for auditors should be armed with powers to impose heavy fines or disqualify members from practising.

In recent years, high-profile company failures, such as Polly Peck and Coloroll, have put auditors and their role in monitoring the financial health of a company firmly in the public spotlight.

So too has the growing practice of "low-balling", where an audit firm offers an exceptionally low bid to a company in order to win the business. The firms then expect to recoup the money by providing additional non-au-

dit type services. Allister Wilson, technical partner at Ernst & Young, said yesterday that self-regulation had failed to deliver "the robust and responsive" framework necessary to give the public confidence in company auditors.

The generally held view of the present regulatory regime for auditors was of "various discrete bodies which appear to have little or no meaningful contact with each other and which reach decisions almost entirely on the basis of consensus".

Mr Wilson added that the auditing board was being "unrealistic in its belief that it can make unilateral significant inroads into meeting ever increasing public expectations".

The first step to higher standards of regulation would be to place the APB under the auspices of the Financial Reporting Council. The chairman of this statutory body is appointed jointly by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Governor of the Bank of England.

Such a move, Ernst & Young says, would increase pressure on the DTI and the Stock Exchange "to face up to their

responsibilities to address the legal and regulatory shortcomings in the present system of corporate financial reporting on which the major sources of public criticisms are founded".

Mr Wilson argues that over time, a statutory watchdog for auditors could evolve into a UK securities and exchange commission, similar to the body that exists in the US. This, he said, would be a welcome move and give the UK the ability to play a leading role in influencing future proposals that may emerge for a cross-border European SEC-style body.

The tough new proposals put forward by Ernst & Young will not signal the end of spectacular company failures.

The firm says: "It needs to be more widely understood that it is not possible by any means of regulation to ensure that errors of judgment will not be made by professionals in any field. Corporate collapses will continue and many people will still allege that these are related to audit failures."



Hamish Bryce, chairman of Thorn Lighting which is sponsoring the contest

Hoechst in talks to resolve tax dispute

By OLIVER AUGUST

HOECHST, the German chemicals group, has begun negotiations with the Inland Revenue to resolve a tax dispute that could cost British taxpayers hundreds of millions of pounds.

A month ago, Hoechst issued High Court writs against the Revenue, challenging the legality of advance corporation tax (ACT) levied on dividends paid by its UK subsidiary to the parent company.

Hoechst is demanding repayment of more than £25 million it has paid in ACT, citing European law in its favour.

Bob Davies, company secretary of Hoechst UK, said: "This has much wider implications. Other companies might follow us and ask for their ACT back as well."

Tax experts believe that

Hoechst's case will be based on Article 7 of the Treaty of Rome, which says: "Within the scope of application of this treaty, any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited." British firms do not pay ACT on dividends to parent companies.

If Hoechst is successful, other European Union companies with British subsidiaries could follow its example and make claims that are estimated to run into hundreds of millions of pounds.

The Inland Revenue said: "We believe the system for accounting for ACT on the payment of dividends between subsidiaries and their parent companies is fully in accordance with Community law. We will robustly defend this view if necessary."

Insurers to seek more exemptions

THE Association of British Insurers will today push the Inland Revenue for a resolution to the tax row which has erupted over the payment protection insurance market.

Last week, the Chancellor, promised to exempt payments made under mortgage protection policies. He said the position of other protection policies for personal loans, hire purchase and credit cards would have to be reviewed.

Stephen Devine, of Pinnacle, the specialist insurer, said: "If the exemption is not extended, the level of insurance cover will have to be reduced to keep premium prices down."

Battle for VSEL is set to resume

By MARTIN WALLER

HOSTILITIES are set to resume this week in the two-way fight to take control of VSEL, the submarine maker, between British Aerospace and Lord Weinstock's GEC once the Department of Trade and Industry has ruled on the takeover.

At stake is a large chunk of Britain's remaining defence industry. The competing bids were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last year, and the MMC report now awaits a decision from Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, expected as early as this week.

Mr Heseltine has two options, the City believes. He can clear both unconditionally, or he can impose on GEC conditions requiring the group to keep open for a fixed period

VSEL's submarine-making yard at Barrow-in-Furness, a policy thought to be the view of the MMC report.

The complexity of the situation and the political implications have already led the MMC to call for a month-long extension to complete its work. Clearing both bids unconditionally would probably prompt an immediate offer from British Aerospace, analysts believe. However, if GEC is tied down with conditions and required to give undertakings to the trade department, it would be in BAE's interest to wait for the outcome of those talks.

BAe has already put in place the financing for a renewed offer, a £383 million rights issue that will be returned to shareholders if any subsequent offer fails.

Designs to update democracy

THE Houses of Parliament transferred to the derelict Battersea power station and a "virtual reality" legislature were two of the 12 futuristic entries short-listed in a competition to redesign Parliament for the next century.

The competition, open to design students, was launched by the Design Council and sponsored by Thorn Lighting Group, floated on the stock market as TLG in November. The winner will be announced at the House in a fortnight.

The finalists were asked to develop their ideas into models which were displayed at the building that inspired them. Other ideas were a beacon of light in Parliament Square, adding to the capital's skyline, and an extension to the existing House apparently inspired by the shape of the prehistoric trilobite.

CHANGE ON WEEK

Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.28
Austria Sch	16.82
Belgium Fr	48.78
Canada \$	2.30
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748
Denmark Kr	8.34
Finland Mk	7.40
France Fr	8.35
Germany DM	2.37
Greece Dr	379.00
Hong Kong \$	13.11
Ireland Pt	1.03
Israel	5.298
Italy Lira	2755.00
Japan Yen	150.00
Malta	0.800
Netherlands Gld	2.639
Norway Kr	10.59
Portugal Esc	246.00
S Africa Rd	rel.
Spain Ptas	204.00
Sweden Kr	12.28
Switzerland Fr	1.58
Turkey Lira	rel.
USA \$	1.710

THE POUND

US dollar	1.6009 (-0.0088)
German mark	2.1840 (-0.0301)
Exchange index	83.6 (-1.0)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
FT 30 share	2472.4 (+23.7)
FT-SE 100	3251.7 (+35.0)
New York Dow Jones	4343.40 (+22.13)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg	17088.66 (+281.91)

The Scottish Provident Institution

The 157th Annual General Meeting of members of the Scottish Provident Institution will be held on Tuesday, 30 May 1995 at 12 noon in the Head Office, 6 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, to consider the Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Report of the Directors and Auditors, to elect Directors, to determine the remuneration of the Directors and to re-elect the Auditors.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address.

By order of the Board of Directors

G Henderson
Secretary
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Edinburgh EH2 2YA
2 May 1995

Jon Ashworth talks to the former Lord Mayor of London

A year of banging the City's drum

Sir Paul Newall, long-standing adviser to Lehman Brothers and latterly Lord Mayor of London, has surfaced after six months in purdah to talk about his eventful year at the Mansion House. Sir Paul, who clocked up more than 50 flights and made more than 600 speeches in a hectic programme of foreign visits, has lost none of his zeal for the City's cause.

"It all seems a bit unreal now," says Sir Paul, rumination from his chair in Lehman's offices high above Broadgate. "We tackled 15 cities in 21 days on a trip to America alone. That's a lot of one-night stands: 30 speeches, 19 aircraft movements, 60 hand-written 'thank you' notes. These things are rightfully important."

Sir Paul stepped down in November in favour of Christopher Walford after a whirlwind term that took in visits to Japan, South Korea, America and the Middle East. He survived the Ikaho hot springs near Tokyo, and took on the Hungarian fencing champion in Budapest, returning with his sabre as a trophy. "I used to be a fencer in my youth, and said I would love to meet their former Olympic sabre champion," he recalls. "Next, I was

facing him on live television — the first Lord Mayor to say, 'Show me your champion! I want to take them on.'"

Outgoing Lord Mayors customarily keep their heads down until the Easter Banquet to avoid stealing the thunder from their successors. "There's nothing more past than past Lord Mayors," he says. "Lord Mayors have always gone abroad to promote the country's cause."

The difference is one of emphasis — Sir Paul's theme was of London as an international financial centre — and his passion for his subject remains undimmed. "The City is Britain's biggest export industry, a tremendous success story, and it is up to whoever is in the chair to carry on banging the drum."

His own spell at the drum began soon after he took office in November 1993, with a visit to Merseyside, followed in quick succession by a hop to Brussels and a marathon 18-day tour of Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia. While in the East, he was invited to call on the reclusive chairman of Samsung, the Korean industrial conglomerate, at his James Bond-style villa in the hills near Seoul. A



Sir Paul with Richard Riordan, mayor of Los Angeles

few months later, Samsung announced it was moving its European headquarters back to London from Frankfurt after a seven-year absence — not that Sir Paul claims any direct credit. "I hope it helped," he says.

He returned to the Gulf at the end of May for a whistle-

stop tour which included a meeting with the ruler of Abu Dhabi. "It was the height of the Yemen civil war, and he was trying to bring the two sides together," he recalls. John Bond, of HSBC, was among senior City figures to join him on visits to Riyadh, Dhahran and Jeddah. "We

were running home the point about London's total dominance within the time zone in all matters financial." Trips to Northern Ireland, America and Hungary followed.

The City's influence, he says, extends far beyond the Square Mile, attracting £60 billion in inward investment to Britain over the past decade. "Other cities around the world would give their eye teeth to get our business."

There were lessons in the Barings debacle, Sir Paul believes. "It underlines, surely, the danger of managing risk from more than one centre. Barings will probably benefit the City in the long-term."

Despite his silence, Sir Paul has been keeping busy. He has returned to the fold at Lehman, with whom he has a 33-year association, and was recently made a non-executive director of Guardian Royal Exchange. He has become an honorary colonel in the London Regiment of the Territorial Army, and is writing a book about Japan and the City of London. "The Japanese are very good employers here," he says. "They are very conscious of history, old friendships and old links. We have not heard the last of him."

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9 May 1995

Readers of *The Times* on Friday may have made a link between two stories on the front page. One recorded shocking government electoral losses. A smaller item revealed that the Cabinet had approved privatisation of nuclear power and was likely to announce it this week. Also due this week is a Commons debate that will focus on the closure or merger of internationally famous London hospitals. Could there be a connection?

Opposition parties live on principles. A Government constantly has to make choices, on the run, between imperfect options. The devil is in the detail. After so long in office, however, the present Cabinet seems to see positive virtue in unpopular economic and industrial measures. This mindset was evident in the reaction of leading Conservatives to their poor local election showing. The common theme was that ministers had failed to convince the public that they were right.

Voters are not, however, always wrong or in need of persuasion, even if the universal desire for lower taxes and more spending on public services might suggest that to the sophisticated of Whitehall. It is a bit fatuous for a Government that is convinced of the virtues of consumer choice and free markets to reject that when it comes to detailed political choices. If people make rational decisions, at least for them, as individual consumers, they need not automatically behave like unthinking children when public choices

Being unpopular does not make you right



GRAHAM SEABRIGHT

have to be made. Some American free-marketiers have constructed theories arguing that people combine private wisdom with public stupidity. Government's duty is therefore to make the right choice for them by cutting public spending and taxes, thereby also making more of the future choices private. Such thoughts are dangerous for politicians who cannot deliver on taxes.

In Britain, it is easy to see how unpopularity came to seem a good thing to the Cabinet. Anti-inflation programmes are rarely popular unless a country has been ruined by hyper-inflation. The monetarist recession of 1980-81 was almost universally damned. On balance, the shake-out was good for the long-term health of the economy. The same thinking was therefore applied to the next recession and the present anti-inflation drive.

The privatisation programme entrenched this mentality. Ministers argue that each big privatisation was unpopular before it happened, but that few voters would now wish to return to state-run steel or even to a state telephone monopoly.

The post-1989 anti-inflationary programme has not, however, been

a great success. Gains on inflation have been made at high cost, evident in living standards and job insecurity. Ministers appear to have been in thrall to economic ideas they did not fully understand. Deep recessions are extremely costly, especially when the state has to support increased poverty, and its finances go to rot. Needless high interest rates are rightly unpopular.

Equally, few would argue that all utility privatisations have proved universally popular. British Gas, in its early days, took an arrogant attitude to industrial users just as service to private customers was improving. Investment in water

might have cost consumers less, at least in the initial stages, if the industry had been privatised on a different model that did not accent profit maximisation. Ministers have reacted by applying economic theory. Competition will cure the ills. Hence the hybrid privatisation of electricity, the unpopular reforms of gas and now the splintering of British Rail.

Economics is not, however, as dismal a discipline as ministers seem so keen to prove. It teaches, for instance, that people are often better off making the best of the system they have, than trying to move to a theoretically ideal one. A toughly regulated British Gas may be better for consumers and producers than switching to a theoretically competitive market. The comfortable choices that people usually prefer — the popular option — can be the best.

To their own astonishment, ministers failed even to convince all their backbenchers, let alone the public, that most of the Post Office should move into the private sector. This is unfortunate if, as Post Office managers claim, being in the private sector is vital to the organisation's future. It does not mean the public

was wrong. The Post Office now performs quite well in the public sector. Ordinary consumers feared that the change would lead to a model of competition and profit maximisation that would drive out some loss-making services they want to keep.

The Cabinet is well aware that selling nuclear power — again at the behest of management — is also likely to be unpopular. Hence the sweetener of ending the nuclear levy early. Again, it is foolish to assume that people make the wrong public choices. In other industries, separating public regulation from private operation has brought better standards than the state regulating itself. But state nuclear power has operated safely. Scottish voters, who fear that merging their nuclear generator with Nuclear Electric will cost high-technology jobs north of the border, may well be right. These and other issues could make nuclear privatisation a vote loser.

The Cabinet might, instead, focus on the unusually high profits of regional electricity distributors. If these were applied to reducing prices, as suggested in today's paper from the CRI, consumers would be happy. If redundant cash was used to help consumers buy costlier energy-saving appliances, and cheap insulation packages, consumers would be happier, environmental worries would be happier and there would be more work for producers. Popular preferences can, and often do, make economic sense.

The sound of banned music

The Petrillo File. Radio 2, 9.00pm.

Thank you, Bob Holness. I now know why nearly all my American-made 78s recorded in the early 1940s had no orchestral backing. A 27-month war was waged against the recording companies by the musicians' union boss James Caesar Petrillo. He demanded that the companies the royalties he planned to distribute among those instrumentalists made jobs by the juke-box craze that swept the country. His demand was scorned, so he took the ban. Pop idols such as the Trickets thought up to get round the ban. Pop idols such as Sinatra, Dick Haymes and Judy Garland were backed by singing groups imitating "cool-cool-saahh!" and sounding uncannily like musical instruments. The double-basses, for example, were actually human basses.

Scars on the Landscape? Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

With a nice turn of phrase you would expect from a seasoned writer such as Leslie Thomas, the bricks, cement and concrete reminders of the last war that still litter Britain are described as "slightly abashed memorials". Some, like the pill-box and attendant anti-tank blocks in Bridgewater, Somerset, are relics that have long outlived their usefulness except as time capsules. Others have earned a new lease of life. Surrey has a pill-box that has become a winter home for bats and a haven for spiders. And there is a drill-hole in London where killing skills were once perfected; now it is a theatre.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Fiedler 12.30-12.45 News; and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Bruce Dickinson Rock Show 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Stereo For Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Stereo For Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, including at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Chris Stuart 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 Martin Kellner 7.00 Hayes, Cooe Britain 8.30 Who? 9.00 The Petrillo File. See Choice 10.00 Coasting with Noakes 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Steve Meddian 1.30 Stereo For Thought 3.00 Alex Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Samantha Marsh, Sean Bolger 10.00 Scott Chisham 1.00pm Anna Reelium 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Maurice Day, Carol McGiffin 10.00 Caesar 1.00am Al Kelly

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Running the Country — 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGeorge 7.05 Handel Handbooks: Handel (Recorder Sonata in A, Op 1 No 4); 7.20 Chopin (Etudes, Op 25 Nos 10-13); 7.45 Françoise Couperin (Magnificat); 7.55 Prokofiev (Overture on Hebrew Themes, Op 34); 8.15 The Beatles (Dovokil (Piano Quintet in A, Op 34))

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News 6.15 Briefing and Weather 6.30 Farming Today 6.35 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 7.00 News 7.25 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Story: Call Girl by Russell Hoban (7.45) Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross: 0171-580 4444 10.00-10.30 Scars on the Landscape? (FM only): See Choice 10.30 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 From Plato to the Present (LW only): Montaigne 10.30 Women's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 States of Mind: All in the Mind, Professor Anthony Clare travels to Prague to see how mental health care is changing under capitalism 12.00 News: You and Yours, with David Brogan 12.25pm Quoted... Unquoted: Sir David Hunt, Dr Rossland Miles, Dr David Starkey and June Whitfield join Nigel Rees for the quotation quiz 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (1.55) Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Thirty Minutes Theatre: All After Life, Kate Butler stars as a widow, with Sir Nicholas Jones and Peter Yapp 2.30 Richard Baker Compares Notes: Richard Baker talks to Trevor Ford and Adrian Evert 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope On the eve of a series of five concerts at the Barbican, the cellist Yo Yo Ma talks and plays; and Gill Pyrah talks to the author Kazuo Ishiguro

RADIO 5

5.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 6

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RADIO 10

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 11

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 12

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RADIO 14

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 15

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RADIO 16

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 17

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 18

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 19

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 20

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 21

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RADIO 22

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

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RADIO 24

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 25

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 26

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

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6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 28

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RADIO 30

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 31

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 32

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

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RADIO 34

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 35

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Reveal 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.25 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck with Kate Derham 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 Sport 7.55 The Tuesday March 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 up All Night

RADIO 36

6.00am Morning Reports, including at 5

Tears and cheers on a day to remember

First, a confession. Despite my devotion to the arduous duty of spending long hours slumped in front of the television, last night, I am afraid to say, I deserted my post. Following the example set by two young Princesses 50 years ago, I too slipped out into the night to join the celebrating crowds.

Quite what persuaded me to swap the familiar, front-room fag for the fresh air of Hyde Park, I'm not sure. Was it the sight of Princess Margaret happily banging her fist on a royal sofa in memories of VE-Day (BBC 1) as she recalled how she and her sister added the words "and the Queen" to the crowd's chant of "We want the King"?

Was it the sight of that Queen — now the Queen Mother — on the same balcony at Buckingham Palace half a century later? Well, it might have been until an over-excited Bob Holness all but robbed

us, and The Day Peace Broke Out (BBC 1), of one of the celebration's most moments by gabbling over both the royal family and the Queen Mother's entrance. What did he expect her to do? Bounce on to the balcony shouting: "I'll have a V please, Bob." People have been sent to the Tower for less.

But whatever the spur, you know that when even the sight of Grant Mitchell in his regimental blazer in *EastEnders* is bringing a tear to the eye, it's time for a change of scene. With only *Call Up the Stars* to come (not so much rolling out the barrel as scraping it) Hyde Park beckoned.

Until then the BBC had done a superb job of capturing the changing moods of an event that was part Remembrance Sunday, part-Royal Wedding and — courtesy of the omni-present Vera Lynn — part-Last Night of the Proms. Like Remembrance Sunday, it had me regularly dabbling the eyes for

unexpectedly spilt tears. Like Royal Weddings, it had me regularly dabbling the carpet for unexpected spilt drinks. And, like The Last Night of the Proms, it occasionally had me bobbing up and down to see if there was something just a little less embarrassing on the other side.

The extent of the BBC's effort was awesome. Never in the history of television state occasions can so much have been collected by so many. Personal anecdote followed personal anecdote, each one a little history lesson and a sea of little history lessons. *The Day Peace Broke Out* followed the by now established VE-Day format, with John Tusa in Hyde Park linking live and archive footage together with impressive ease.

Down at Buckingham Palace, Jill Dando and Tom Fleming worked well together, labelling

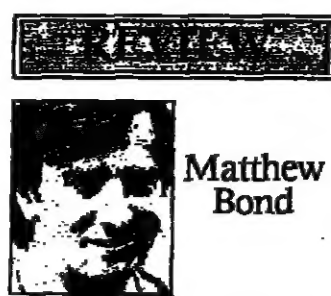
she visibly warmed to her task of recalling the events of 50 years ago. That famous evening excursion with her sister was not the egalitarian exercise it at first appeared, we learnt. "We waited so long that eventually we sent someone in inside to say 'we're outside... would you mind coming out on the balcony'." Her parents duly obliged.

"Did you dress up?" asked Asbury, with an impressive display of faux naivety. "No, the great thing was not to be recognised," obliged the Princess. "So we rather dressed down."

My favourite anecdote, however, concerned Churchill's desperate search for an ashtray before he joined the Royal Family on the balcony. "Such beautiful manners," muttered the Princess. Indeed — history would not have been the same if the great man had simply sauntered out and lobbed a cigar-butt over the balcony.

Her parents, she recalled, held the East Enders in enormous affection: "Yes — they're wonderful people." Quite what they would have made, however, of the goings-on at the Queen Vic in *EastEnders* (BBC 1) remains one of the great VE-Day mysteries — along with Cliff Richard. Basically, Arthur averted yet another mid-life crisis by organising a street party. Peggy gave us her rendition of Vera Lynn (but thank you not A Nightingale). *Song In Albert Square* and *Edna* recalled halibuts she had known. Hyde Park definitely beckoned.

But before joining the throng, I did have a few minutes to dip into *Carry on QE2* (BBC 2) and what a joy it was. Whoever scheduled it for VE-Night had a wicked sense of humour and will be doing well not to join Holness in the Tower. With the entire nation swept up on a



Matthew Bond

valiantly to bring a little dignity to proceedings that were always in danger of turning into a cross between a circus and the Eurovision Song Contest. They did not labour in vain — thanks to a director who eventually faded Holness's microphone down.

Earlier, Princess Margaret had got the day off to a rather more orderly start. Responding to the gentle coaxing of Richard Asbury,

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (27006)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (10023273)
 - 9.05 Kilroy (s) (1367199)
 - 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7271606) 10.05 *EastEnders* — The Early Days (s) (Ceefax) (1425538)
 - 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen from, for today, St Peter Port in Guernsey (s) (4110002)
 - 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9981170) 12.05 *Pebble Mill*. Gloria Hunniford welcomes Golden Girl Rose McCannan and 'Allo 'Allo star Gordon Kaye (s) (5073257) 12.50 Regional News and weather (1406422)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (20844) 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (s) (2935588) 1.50 Going for Gold with the affable Henry Kelly (s) (2575824)
 - 2.15 Colombo. The shabby sleuth investigates the murder of a yacht-building businessman. Starring Peter Falk, Robert Vaughn and Wilfrid Hyde-White. Directed by Patrick McGeehan. (Ceefax) (459354)
 - 3.50 Monty (s) (3164844) 3.55 *Fievel's American Tails* (s) (s) (1278373) 4.20 *Walt on Earth* (s) (7990288) 4.35 *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (1023151)
 - 5.00 Newsround. (Ceefax) (9501248) 5.10 The Lowdown. A report on children watching television worldwide (s) (Ceefax) (s) (5022286)
 - 5.35 *Neighbours* (s). (Ceefax) (s) (433422)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (977) 6.30 Regional news magazines (557)
 - 7.00 The Good Food Show Appetizer. Juliet Morris and Will Hanahan preview a new food magazine (s) (59606)
 - 7.15 *EastEnders*. (Ceefax) (s) (980441)

- BBC2**
- 6.20 Open University
 - 8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax) and signing (7355338)
 - 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Sir Bernard Ingham (s) (3738480)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (1434644) 2.00 *Harry Jammy* (1232598) 2.05 *Prisoner of the Frog* (1252757)
 - 2.10 At the Risk of Our Lives. The first of a three-part series about the early explorers of New Zealand begins with Ernest Denbigh, a political refugee from Germany, who arrived in the Antipodes in 1839 (581118)
 - 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (s) (6172083) 3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (3181507)
 - 4.00 Today's Day. Recent history quiz (s) (170) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Innovative recipes (s) (384)
 - 5.00 Esther. Studio discussion series (s) (6996)
 - 5.30 Catchword with Paul Coia (s) (606)
 - 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. (s) (673805)
 - 6.25 Heartbreak High. Drama series about the pupils of an Australian inner-city school. (Ceefax) (s) (119373)
 - 7.10 *The Ren and Stimpy Show*. Animated adventures of a Chihuahua and his feline friend (s) (540712)
 - 7.30 East. Why are there so few Asians in the British Armed Forces? (Ceefax) (s) (593)
 - 8.00 Talking Liberties: Joanne's Story. (Ceefax) (s) (5880)
 - 8.30 Tracks. Countryside magazine series. (Ceefax) (s) (4915)
 - 9.00 Fast of Fun. Comedy lifestyle series. (Ceefax) (s) (833)
 - 9.30 Meet. Derek Cooper investigates the claim that chicken is a healthy food. (Ceefax) (s) (202009)

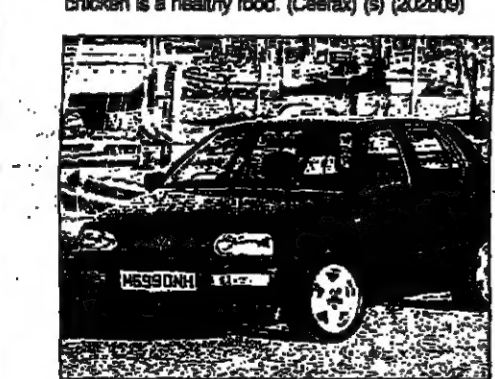
- CHOICE**
- Without Walls Channel 4, 9pm
 - Mondrian — Through the Keyhole could have told us much about the interesting abstract painter Piet Mondrian. Instead, presenter Nicholas Ward-Jackson has opted for a pseudo panel of "experts" (a style of art, a clinical psychologist, and a Russian orthodox priest, for heaven's sake) to dissect the Dutch trailblazer's personality in terms of his geometric studies. Myfwarrior Piper, who knew Mondrian in the Paris of the 1930s, lends some dignity and insight to the proceedings. Part two concludes Pete McCarthy's 'bloody' trilogy *Bloody Old People*. But apart from a slightly less embarrassed confession to his chosen theme — that which annoys him — this is a sympathetic exploration of the perils of old age.
 - 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (s) (6172083) 3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (3181507)
 - 4.00 Today's Day. Recent history quiz (s) (170) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Innovative recipes (s) (384)
 - 5.00 Esther. Studio discussion series (s) (6996)
 - 5.30 Catchword with Paul Coia (s) (606)
 - 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. (s) (673805)
 - 6.25 Heartbreak High. Drama series about the pupils of an Australian inner-city school. (Ceefax) (s) (119373)
 - 7.10 *The Ren and Stimpy Show*. Animated adventures of a Chihuahua and his feline friend (s) (540712)
 - 7.30 East. Why are there so few Asians in the British Armed Forces? (Ceefax) (s) (593)
 - 8.00 Talking Liberties: Joanne's Story. (Ceefax) (s) (5880)
 - 8.30 Tracks. Countryside magazine series. (Ceefax) (s) (4915)
 - 9.00 Fast of Fun. Comedy lifestyle series. (Ceefax) (s) (833)
 - 9.30 Meet. Derek Cooper investigates the claim that chicken is a healthy food. (Ceefax) (s) (202009)

- CARLTON**
- 6.00am GMTV (4732002)
 - 9.25 Tim, Loss or Draw (8693828) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1417783)
 - 10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (5007828)
 - 10.35 This Morning (6613480) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (9887354)
 - 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (7664712)
 - 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (7672731) 1.25 Emmerdale (s). (Teletext) (16380257) 1.55 A Country Practice (s) (3880583)
 - 2.20 Vanessa: In Love With Your Teacher. (Teletext) (s) (20445915) 2.50 Dogs with Dumber. Ian Dumber explains what causes dogs to bite (2653373) 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (3022147) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (4472698)
 - 3.30 Allsorts (s) (s) (5221354) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (s) (5131511) 3.50 Twinkle the Dream Belong (s) (s) (9731575) 4.00 Budge the Little Helicopter (s) (s) (7051118) 4.15 The Legends of Treasure Island (Teletext) (s) (2874222) 4.40 Finders Keepers (Teletext) (s) (4068170)
 - 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (7185199)
 - 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (707844)
 - 5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (540422)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (373)
 - 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (825)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (326)
 - 7.30 Londoners at War: A Schindler Survivor. In the last of three programmes commemorating the 50th anniversary of VE-Day, Victor Dornheimer, one of the Jews saved by Oskar Schindler, embarks on a remarkable journey of remembrance to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Israel. (Teletext) (s) (509)
 - 8.00 The Bill: Memorial. Demolition day arrives for a high-rise estate. (Teletext) (9906)
 - 8.30 My Good Friend. Comedy starring George Cole and Richard Pearson. (Teletext) (s) (1441)
 - 9.00 Peak Practice: Life and Soul starring Amanda Burton and Kevin Whately. (Teletext) (s) (5977)
 - 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (51488)
 - 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (281731)

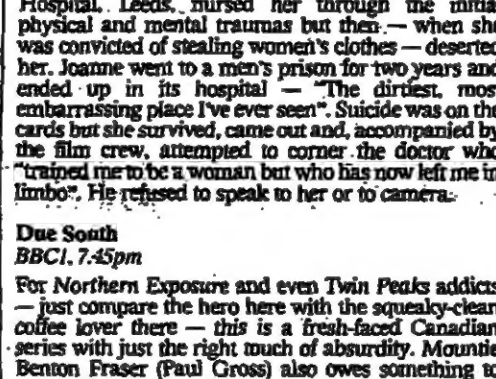
- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Spiff and Hercules (7500847)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (10267)
 - 9.00 You Bet Your Life. Trivia quiz game for couples (s) (133538)
 - 9.30 Schools Europe (484925) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (4837680) 10.00 Equinox (3443286) 10.53 Schools at Work (7418422) 11.00 Irish Schools and Inventors (7418422) 11.22 Stage One (6801538) 11.40 Breaking the Mould (353248)
 - 12.00 House To House. Maya Evans's political magazine (41002)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early-learning series. The gussies Bill Irwin and Queen Latifah (s) (10373) 1.30 Dr Snuggles (s) (7235560)
 - 1.55 Food Film. The last in the series includes Huggi Arnold singing the praises of fish and Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick preparing the Jewish dish cholent (s). (Teletext) (s) (9170821)
 - 2.25 Channel 4 Racing From Chester. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.40, 3.10 (Dallham Chester Vase), 3.40 and 4.10 races (s) (1823977)
 - 4.30 Fifteen-To-One. (Teletext) (s) (422)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guest, Dr Paula Harkin, believes there is a formula for happiness. The studio audience are asked how they would spend the rest of their lives if they were told they had only a month to live. (Teletext) (s) (807831)
 - 5.50 Terrytoons with Huckle and Jocke (829373)
 - 6.00 Babylon 5. American science-fiction drama series. (Teletext) (s) (687199)
 - 6.55 Terrytoons featuring Deputy Dawg (827806)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (98118)
 - 7.30 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (595422)
 - 8.00 Africa Express. Toyin Fani-Kayode reports from Burkina Faso; Joseph Wanyungu is in Tanzania, and Audrey Brown investigates the changes in African advertising. (Teletext) (s) (7248)
 - 8.30 Brookside. The trial of Mandy and Beth Jordache continues. (Teletext) (s) (9063)



Paul Gross and David Marciano (7.45pm)



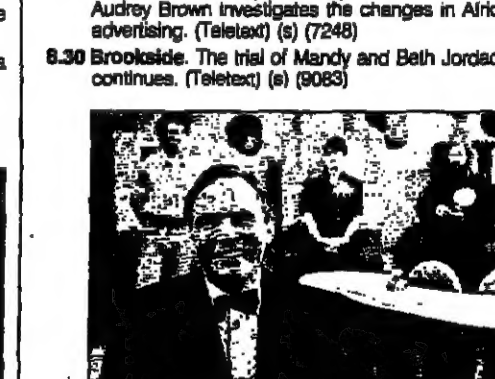
Volvo's latest Golf GTI (10.10pm)



Joanne yearns to become a woman (BBC2, 8.00pm)



Pat's father was killed in action (10.40pm)



Nicholas Ward-Jackson on Mondrian (8.00pm)

- 7.45 Due South** (563267)
- 8.00 Nine O'Clock News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3903)
- 9.30 What Did You Do in the War, Auntie?** The second of two films about the BBC's role during the Second World War. (Ceefax) (s) (91825). *Wales: Week In Week Out* (54084) 10.00 *What Did You Do in the War, Auntie?* (3986) 11.00 Film: In a Stranger's Hand (8588) 12.30am-1.55 Film: Weekend of Shadows (775318)
- 10.30 M.I. in a Stranger's Hand** (1991) starring Robert Urich and Meg Ryan. A thriller about the search for a missing girl that leads a businessman and the girl's mother into a web of murder, conspiracy and child theft. Directed by David Greene (54040). *Northern Ireland: Greenpeace* 11.00 Film: In a Stranger's Hand 12.30am-1.30 Beverly Craven
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- VARIATIONS**
- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 12.35 Emmerdale (7672731) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (7672731) 2.00-2.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.35-3.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.05-3.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.35-4.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.05-4.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.35-5.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.05-5.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.35-6.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.05-6.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.35-7.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.05-7.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.35-8.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.05-8.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.35-9.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.05-9.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.35-10.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.05-10.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.35-11.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.05-11.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.35-12.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.05-12.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.35-1.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.05-1.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.35-2.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.05-2.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.35-3.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.05-3.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.35-4.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.05-4.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.35-5.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.05-5.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.35-6.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.05-6.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.35-7.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.05-7.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.35-8.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.05-8.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.35-9.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.05-9.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.35-10.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.05-10.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.35-11.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.05-11.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.35-12.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.05-12.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.35-1.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.05-1.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.35-2.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.05-2.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.35-3.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.05-3.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.35-4.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.05-4.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.35-5.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.05-5.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.35-6.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.05-6.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.35-7.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.05-7.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.35-8.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.05-8.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.35-9.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.05-9.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.35-10.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.05-10.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.35-11.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.05-11.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.35-12.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.05-12.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.35-1.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.05-1.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.35-2.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.05-2.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.35-3.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.05-3.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.35-4.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.05-4.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.35-5.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.05-5.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.35-6.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.05-6.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.35-7.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.05-7.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.35-8.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.05-8.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.35-9.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.05-9.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.35-10.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.05-10.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.35-11.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.05-11.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.35-12.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.05-12.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.35-1.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.05-1.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.35-2.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.05-2.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.35-3.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.05-3.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.35-4.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.05-4.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.35-5.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.05-5.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.35-6.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.05-6.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.35-7.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.05-7.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.35-8.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.05-8.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.35-9.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.05-9.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.35-10.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.05-10.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.35-11.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.05-11.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.35-12.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.05-12.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.35-1.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.05-1.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.35-2.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.05-2.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.35-3.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.05-3.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.35-4.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.05-4.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 4.35-5.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.05-5.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 5.35-6.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.05-6.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 6.35-7.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.05-7.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 7.35-8.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.05-8.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 8.35-9.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.05-9.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 9.35-10.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.05-10.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 10.35-11.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.05-11.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 11.35-12.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.05-12.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 12.35-1.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.05-1.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 1.35-2.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.05-2.30 *Neighbours* (7672731) 2.35-3.00 *Neighbours* (7672731) 3.05-3.30 *Neighbours* (76

Utilities face call for high profits to trigger price cuts

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government should scrap the price-capping control of privatised utilities and replace it with a system under which high profits trigger price cuts, according to an independent study by the leading professional accountancy body for the public services, published today.

The study, from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), will add to the increasing calls — some from the utility regulators themselves — for a radical overhaul of the system of regulating the public

utilities after controversy over the pay of their senior executives and over the effect on investors of the electricity regulator's reopening of his pricing review.

Labour party leaders have been highly critical of the Government's regulatory system, and, although they broadly favour a change based on rate-of-return regulation, they are likely to see today's report as an authoritative criticism of what they now view as a flawed system.

In its study, the CIPFA says that the reopening by Professor Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Ofwat, the electricity regulator, of the price review

governing his industry "has seriously weakened the incentive properties of the regulatory system". His move to revisit distribution price controls only seven months after making what was supposed to be a full decision on the issue "followed hard on a relentless political and media campaign against high profits and associated excesses such as executive pay and share options", the report says.

Through the study, by the CIPFA's regulatory research arm, the Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries (CRI), accepts that the current RPI-X regulatory system has "excellent" incentive properties

by encouraging the utilities it covers to produce at the lowest cost, it says that the system is very inflexible, and provides for the build-up of undesirable high profits or for the prospect of losses.

Such profits mean that "popular resentment can build up against the utilities and the regulators which, if taken seriously, can compromise the whole system of incentive regulation", while the prospect of losses would lead to regulated companies seeking a price review from their regulator or from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Instead, it advocates a sliding-scale or profit-sharing regulatory system, under which, if profits rise above a specified level, the utility must cut its prices, with no regulators' discretion.

Although the CRI says that a strong incentive still exists under this method for a utility to maximise profits, some of the profits would then go to customers, rather than to shareholders, though it would ensure that, in tougher times, shareholders would always be able to earn a "fair" return.

Utilities would be able to pay the profit levy as a one-off rebate or avoid it by cutting prices below the standard price.

The report, prepared by economists from the London School of Economics and Loughborough University and CIPFA staff, says that the high profits that can be generated within RPI-X price-capping "can often sit uneasily in the political culture" and can lead to "less efficient but superficially more equitable" rate-of-return regulation.

CBI to reject minimum wage scheme

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders will give strong support to the Conservatives when they reject Labour's proposals for a statutory national minimum wage — at whatever level it is set.

But industry's move, which will be made next week, follows a new study today of the minimum wage by the Labour party that seems to be indicating what may be a significant shift over how a future Labour government would fix a legally enforced floor under wages.

At its governing council meeting, the Confederation of British Industry is expected to approve a policy paper strongly rejecting the idea of a statutory national minimum wage in the UK.

Though the CBI's document is not likely to back explicitly the Conservatives' rejection of a minimum wage, it will refuse to accept Labour's plans for its introduction.

Some Labour leaders had hoped that the CBI might have been ready to accept what they claim is considerable academic and other evidence in support of a minimum wage, and they will be disappointed at the confederation's expected conclusion.

The CBI paper, which has been prepared jointly by its

economics and employment divisions after careful consultation with industry — especially with companies most likely to be affected by a statutory minimum — looks at the impact of a statutory minimum in different economic sectors and industries.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, is being pressed by some of the party's large trade unions to set a figure for the minimum wage in advance of the general election. They want to see a figure of up to £4.15 an hour.

But in its document, the CBI rejects a minimum wage, regardless of the level at which it would be set. If it is set at too high a level, business leaders will argue, it will cost jobs, while if it is set at a level low enough to have only a minor impact on employment, it will do nothing to alleviate low pay and poverty.

Sir Brian Nicholson, CBI president, reflects business' concern about having to deal with the impact of a minimum wage under a potential Labour government by insisting that it is right for the CBI to consider the issue seriously, though he concedes there is "unease" about the principle of a legal minimum.

As part of its consideration, the CBI is to stage a symposium on the issue, probably in June before the TUC special conference on the minimum wage the following month.

Harriet Harman, Labour's Shadow Employment Secretary, says today: "Britain is alone amongst developed nations in having no floor under wages." She says that Labour is committed to introducing a national minimum which will protect people at work from exploitation by poverty pay and prevent taxpayers from subsidising employers who will not pay proper wages.

In a study of how the minimum wage is set in other countries, Labour notes that it is usually set by agreement, takes account of any possible employment effects, and is normally set in relation to prices rather than earnings.

Some Labour leaders may well use this last point as a means of introducing a more flexible form of minimum wage, rather than the specific level set down by the party's current minimum-setting pay formula.

The Department of Employment said that the UK's deregulated labour market had seen better job growth than in a number of countries with statutory minimum wages.

The Department said: "A statutory national minimum wage would distort the labour market and destroy jobs, particularly for young people and the unskilled."

Fair day's pay, page 38



Micro power: Richard King, left, chairman of Toy Options Group, and Kiran Shah, finance director, hope to raise £3.5 million when Toy Options comes to market at the end of May. The company markets and distributes toys such as Biker Mice from Mars, Robocop and Stretch Armstrong. Issues revival, page 37

Pound and dollar set for rocky week

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING held steady yesterday, helped by the absence of London currency dealing for the VE-Day anniversary, but nervousness remains high after the shock decision on Friday by Kenneth Clarke, the

Chancellor, not to raise interest rates and both the pound and the dollar are set for a rocky week on foreign exchange markets.

Trading volume was low as other centres awaited the return of London. The pound hovered for most of the day around DM2.19, just over a

pfennig above its record low hit on April 19. It firmed a little against the dollar, which ended European trading at about \$1.6085 to the pound from Friday's close at \$1.5985.

The Bank of England remained silent on Mr Clarke's decision throughout the holiday weekend and dealers are

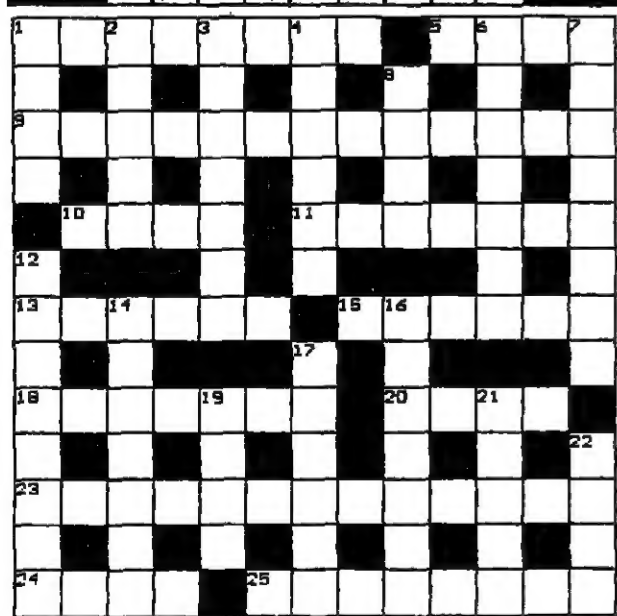
now eager to see the Bank's *Inflation Report* on Thursday for signs of its attitude.

The dollar came under modest pressure against the yen in Far East trading after news that trade talks between the US and Japan have broken down and that the US was considering tough sanctions.

However, the selling saw no real follow-through in Europe. In late trading, the dollar was quoted at Y82.85 compared with Friday's close of Y84.

The French franc firmed to 3.5465 to the mark from Friday's 3.5720 in the wake of Jacques Chirac's victory in the presidential elections.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 465

ACROSS:

- 1 Peril (8)
- 5 Largest W Indian island (4)
- 9 Poly, dingy premises (4-2-3-4)
- 10 Crossword diagram (4)
- 11 Town stronghold (7)
- 13 Escaping notice (6)
- 15 Churchill Oson, burial village (6)
- 18 Czech region; Italian writer (7)
- 20 Careful, tidy (4)
- 22 Act ruthlessly (4,2,7)
- 24 Run fast; hurl (4)
- 25 Make impossible (8)

DOWN:

- 1 NT book; Augustus —, portraitist (4)
- 2 Lubricator; tanker, well (5)
- 3 Cretan princess, guided Theseus (7)
- 4 Perceive, discover (6)
- 6 Without assistance (7)
- 7 The whole time (3,5)
- 8 Run fast; skin (4)
- 12 Inferred (8)
- 14 Important, grave (7)
- 16 Madman (7)
- 17 Cloth strip with slogan (6)
- 19 Calf meat (4)
- 21 Farewell (5)
- 22 Shivering fit (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 464

- ACROSS: 1 Sagacity 5 Warp 8 Oratorio 9 Grip 11 Pinch 12 Chopper 13 Radial 15 Gnosis 18 Dialect 19 Nasty 21 Vest 22 Colonise 23 Dart 24 Restless
- DOWN: 1 Stopper 2 Grain 3 Cloth-eared 4 Twitch 6 Appropos 7 Piper 10 Down-and-out 14 Dear Sir 16 Shyness 17 Stroke 18 David 20 Shine

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Jobs lost as firms cut back on derivatives operations

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE reverberations from the merger of Barings, the merchant bank, in February after a Singapore-based trader ran up £860 million losses continue to be felt in the City as firms start to cut back their derivatives and futures operations.

Nick Leeson, the Barings trader whose activities led to the failure of the bank, is currently in a Frankfurt jail awaiting the decision of a German court on whether to grant the Singapore Government's extradition request.

At least four firms have cut back their derivatives trading activities recently and others are rumoured to be planning to follow suit.

Last week, Chase Manhattan said it would stop trading at Liffe, the London financial futures exchange, after its decision to wind down its international futures trading activities in response to low volumes of business.

A spokeswoman said the decision would affect 50 jobs in the UK out of a total of 170

worldwide. Twenty UK trading and broking jobs have already gone. The remaining 30 were futures clearing staff, of whom between ten to 20 would be offered jobs doing futures clearing for custody clients. The rest will lose their jobs over the next few months.

Tullet & Tokyo has closed its exchange traded derivatives operation with the loss of seven jobs, four on the Liffe



Leeson: awaiting decision

floor. Derek Tullet, the president, said the operation "did not make any money and was not part of our core interests".

Dean Witter has made three options staff redundant. Chris Hartley, the managing director of Dean Witter International, said "volumes of business have shrunk in that area of the business".

Richard Reinert, managing director of Refco, the futures trader, said it had not cut jobs. He said other firms were cutting jobs "because of low volume levels, but there could be a sudden increase in volumes and it is dangerous to be caught short of staff".

He said the reason other firms were cutting jobs was the "losses that occurred in most of the capital markets as a result of adverse conditions in the bond markets".

Warburg, which is in negotiations to sell its investment banking business to Swiss Bank Corporation, slimmed its derivatives operation in March with the loss of 90 jobs.

SBC closer to Warburg purchase

By ROBERT MILLER

THE £800 million sale of SG Warburg to Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) moved closer to completion last night after a series of crucial bank holiday meetings between the two sides and their advisers.

Swiss Bank is continuing with its due diligence investigations, but a formal offer could come as soon as this week.

The Swiss team is led by Marcel Ospel, SBC's head of investment banking, together with his advisers, Hambro Magan. Sir David Scholey, chairman of SG Warburg, has taken personal charge of the negotiations and is being advised by Schroders.

Part of the deal hinges on what happens to Mercury Asset Management (MAM), the highly-profitable fund management company that is 75 per cent owned by SG Warburg.

MAM is not part of the package, but City analysts expect keen interest to be expressed, not least by the major high street banks.

Gooda Walker victors sell expertise

By MARTIN WALLER

TWO of the most painful thorns in the side of the Lloyd's insurance market are planning to form an action group that will fight on behalf of small shareholders in crashed companies.

Alfred Doll-Steinberg and Tom Benyon, veterans of a bruising legal struggle to gain compensation for the victims of the Lloyd's catastrophe, will in the next ten days formally launch the Mountleigh Action Group, set up to claw back to shareholders some of the losses from the property group that crashed in 1992. Mr Doll-Steinberg said the Mount-

leigh assault is part of a "wider shareholder resistance movement" that will home in on corporate disasters and attempt to ensure, for a share of the spoils, that the smaller shareholders do not lose out entirely to the benefit of banks and other secured creditors.

He and Mr Benyon, a former Conservative MP, are co-founders of the Gooda Walker Action Group formed four years ago. Last October they secured a victory in the biggest case of its kind in English legal history in a court judgment worth £504 million. Their involvement in Mountleigh has secured a response from just short of 500 shareholders in the

group, built up by the property developer Tony Clegg and then sold before its £590 million collapse.

The action group is looking to take a success fee of 10 per cent of any recoveries, and subsequent actions will follow a similar pattern. Mr Doll-Steinberg, who refers to the City of London as "Sodom-and-Gomorrah on Thames", is reserving most of his ire in the case of Mountleigh for the receiver, KPMG Peat Marwick. He claims the latter has adopted "an utterly disgusting attitude" towards the small shareholders. KPMG says it owes no strict duty towards those shareholders.

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Boost for Cl... pound bounce

By JANET BUSH

THE strong reaction to the pound and the dollar are set for a rocky week on foreign exchange markets.

Trading volume was low as other centres awaited the return of London. The pound hovered for most of the day around DM2.19, just over a pfennig above its record low hit on April 19.

Part of the deal hinges on what happens to Mercury Asset Management (MAM), the highly-profitable fund management company that is 75 per cent owned by SG Warburg.

MAM is not part of the package, but City analysts expect keen interest to be expressed, not least by the major high street banks.

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